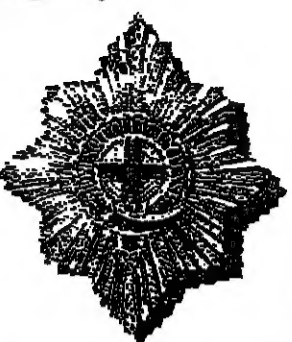


## THE TIMES Saturday

**Moving...**  
How to move house and save money  
... spirit  
Savouring eau-de-vie, the colourless spirit with a punch  
**Laps...**  
John Blunsden previews the Belgian Grand Prix, first European round of the 1984 world motor racing championship  
... of honour  
Roy Strong on the wonderful world of pageantry



## Thatcher stands up for Budd

The Prime Minister, speaking in the Commons, condemned those who yelled insults at Zola Budd during her record-breaking race at Crystal Palace on Wednesday. Meanwhile, Labour members of Torfaen Borough Council have decided that no steps will be taken to prevent Miss Budd from competing at next month's UK championships in South Wales.

## Fading flame

The traditional ceremonies for lighting the Olympic flame in Greece have been cancelled by the Greeks because of alleged American commercialization.

## The Observer

Mrs Thatcher assured MPs that the Government had not received an application for consent to transfer of the ownership of The Observer.

He should have claimed diplomatic immunity.

HESS STILL IN PRISON.

## Devolution plan

The official Unionists have presented proposals for administrative devolution in Northern Ireland ahead of the report of the New Ireland forum in the Irish Republic.

## BUPA deal

The British United Provident Association (BUPA), Britain's biggest private health insurer, is striking a deal with 140 private hospitals to control costs and subscription increases.

## Hostage hopes

Hopes for the release of 16 British hostages, seized by rebel forces in Angola, rose after talks at the Foreign Office.

## Knowles beaten

Tony Knowles, the fourth seed, was beaten 10-7 yesterday by the unseeded John Parrott in the first round of the Embassy world snooker championship in Sheffield.

Leader page 13  
Letters: On Dimbleby lecture, from Mr J. Murray and Mr W. Wallace; Arts cuts, from Professor J. A. Berthoud  
Leading articles: Export subsidies; Child care; Punjab Features, pages 10, 11, 12  
David Steel calls for a nuclear summit in Europe; Poland's salmon, king among fish, Friday Page; Her indoors, the diplomats' wives  
Obituary, page 14  
Count Basie, Mrs Margaret Powell

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| Home News  | 2-5   | Motoring     | 25    |
| Overseas   | 5-7   | Obituary     | 14    |
| Arts       | 14    | Parliament   | 4     |
| TV & Radio | 8     | Science      | 14    |
| Business   | 15-20 | Sport        | 20-23 |
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| Court      | 14    | Theatre etc  | 27    |
| Crossword  | 28    | Universities | 14    |
| Flora      | 12    | Weather      | 28    |

# Libyans begin to leave bureau as Britons return

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

The first real signs of an end to the St James's Square siege came yesterday when 18 pieces of diplomatic baggage were removed from the Libyan People's Bureau.

The human evacuation also began after the severance of diplomatic relations between the two governments, as British and Libyan families fled home. One of the official sacks which were loaded on to a white van outside the Libyan People's Bureau is likely to have contained the gun which killed Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher outside the building last week precipitating the crisis.

But although the loading was scrutinized by four neutral diplomats, including the Turkish ambassador, none of the bags was searched by the police.

No government representatives were in evidence in the square, although Sir Kenneth Newman, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, stood at the forward police control point near the people's bureau.

Among those helping to load the bags was one of the three men dispatched by Colonel Gaddafi to London this week to supervise the evacuation.

While the scrutineers, who also included representatives from the Syrian and Saudi Arabian embassies, stood by, he boarded the van alongside the driver for the journey to Heathrow Airport.

With three cars bearing

diplomatic nameplates coming behind and with a police escort, the small convoy sped from the square towards Piccadilly, with police holding up traffic to give it priority.

The transfer of wives and dependants from one capital to another went less smoothly, with 30 British women and children waiting for more than five hours in the departure lounge at Tripoli Airport before the Libyan authorities gave them permission to board the British Caledonian flight to Gatwick.

Temper frayed and the Foreign Office protested through the ambassador, Mr Oliver Miles. The delay was thought to represent a "tit-for-tat" response by Colonel Gaddafi to what Libyans saw as a hold-up in the arrangements for Libyan families to leave London.

The 140 Libyans, accompanied by consular officials, arrived at Heathrow after what was described as a minor technical fault with one of their four coaches.

Armed police, crowded the entrances to terminal two and with airport security staff accompanied the Libyans, loaded down with luggage, through emigration procedures. None would comment to waiting journalists, excusing

themselves on the grounds that they could not understand.

The Libyan Arab Airlines Boeing left about 7 pm, shortly after the departure of the Gatwick-bound flight from Tripoli. That was seen as confirmation of the reason for the delay in Libya.

Meanwhile, speculation grew in London that the diplomats and other people inside the bureau in St James's Square, which has in a state of near-siege since the shooting of WPC Fletcher 10 days ago, might leave tomorrow, 24 hours before the Sunday deadline set by Britain.

At Dover, immigration officers refused entry to two Libyans, one said to be a policeman.

At Heathrow Airport, the number of Libyans refused permission to enter the country rose to six, out of 38 arriving during the past 72 hours from Tripoli. About 22 were said to have been allowed in, with a further 10 awaiting a decision.

The Royal Naval College at Dartmouth has been instructed by the Ministry of Defence to turn away three Libyan cadets who were due to have started the new term yesterday. Several others already there have been told to pack their bags.

Support for Britain came yesterday from the Irish Republic, where Mr Peter Barry, the foreign minister, deplored the loss of life and injuries suffered in St James's Square.

## Coal board hopeful on pit closure talks

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

National Coal Board managers were making desperate efforts last night to revive a flagging peace initiative in the seven-week-old pit strike.

Mr Ned Smith, director-general of industrial relations, was still hopeful that joint talks on a pit closure programme could be held with all three unions in the industry, despite the hard line being taken by the National Union of Mineworkers.

He was in contact with Mr Peter Heathfield, general secretary of the NUM, which has 140,000 members on strike. But the miners are refusing to shift from their veto on all colliery shutdowns, except where the seams are exhausted.

Mr Smith said: "We shall just have to preserve and see what will turn up. Our parameters are the basis for reasonable men in the NUM, if they really apply their mind to it, to find a solution."

The board has proposed the closure of four million tonnes of capacity and 20,000 redundancies, and has indicated that it could phase the plan over a longer period than the one-year time scale originally envisaged.

The union has offered talks "anytime, anywhere" but only on its own terms.

While negotiating continued, Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, disclosed plans for a 50p-a-week levy on all trade unionists to support the striking miners. This would be in addition to the proposed levy on Labour Party members.

Speaking in Blyth, Northumberland, after leading a rally of 2,000 strikers, Mr Scargill said: "We will ask every British trade union member to contribute."

The cash will alleviate some of the severe hardship our members are facing.

The miners' union is planning a national demonstration in Nottinghamshire, where the men kept up their defiance of the national strike call yesterday.

The coal board reported that all 25 pits in the area were working normally. Naturally, 52 pits were working, the highest figure since the strike began; but 122 pits remained strikebound.

Mr Scargill, who is to meet Nottinghamshire pit branch officials today, said "thousands and thousands" of trade unionists should attend the protest.

Criticism of the coal board's handling of the dispute was voiced by Mr Walter Goldsmith, director-general of the Institute of Directors. He said: "It is a source of concern that the top of the hill and then marched back down again: first, in seeking injunctions against unlawful secondary action, which it failed to implement, and secondly in apparently extending the time scale for restructuring the industry, without any indication of how that might be financed."

Mr MacGregor meanwhile flew to Washington on his way to Chicago for an international coal conference.

Police hurried the demonstrators into waiting vans before driving them off to Kensington police station.

One witness, Mr Amir Mozaffari, who was standing outside the consulate, said that a group of Iranians entered at about 9.30am and fought with staff. "I looked through the window and saw them fighting and hitting each other with chairs and fists. Then someone smashed the window and threw out about nine or ten passports."

"Two people were waiting outside and they ran away with."

Continued on back page, col 5



A demonstrator, with hands tied, is removed from the Iranian Consulate yesterday after the eight-hour siege.

## Quiet end to siege at Iranian consulate

By John Witherow and Rupert Morris

For the second time in 10 days armed police surrounded a foreign embassy in London yesterday after opponents of the Ayatollah Khomeini occupied part of the Iranian consulate in Kensington Court.

The protest was timed to coincide with similar events in four other European cities. It was one of the most dramatic and well-organized anti-Khomeini demonstrations outside Iran. The Dutch ambassador in The Hague was injured in scuffles, and two people were slightly hurt when protesters used tear gas in Frankfurt. The other protests were in Paris and Vienna.

At the consulate in Kensington, 11 left-wing demonstrators got inside and fought with consulate staff in a front room. Police said that two of the protesters were injured before the group was overpowered and sealed in the ground floor reception by an electronic lock.

Within minutes the police, several of them with handguns and wearing flak jackets, surrounded the building and cut off traffic to the area just south west of Hyde Park.

Police moved on to roof tops and adjacent balconies ready for the familiar waiting game as attempts were made to get the protesters to come out.

After eight hours the demonstrators were brought out, one by one, with their hands tied and placards around their necks saying either "US terrorists" or "French terrorists". The first man was hooded while others, including two women, were bundled out at five-minute intervals; one of them fell down the steps.

Above them a group of half a dozen consulate staff stood on the balcony and chanted: "Long live Khomeini" and "Down with USA - Down with Russia - Down with imperialism and Communism".

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"Two people were waiting outside and they ran away with."

Continued on back page, col 5

## Further steel cuts rejected by Commons inquiry

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

A Commons Select Committee has rejected any attempts by the state-owned British Steel Corporation or the Government to instigate further cuts in the nation's steelmaking capability.

No more British steel mills should be closed, it says, before the rest of Europe honours obligations to reduce steelmaking capacity.

At the same time the first report from the new Commons Trade and Industry Committee is fiercely critical of the Government's steel privatization policy, calls for changes in the law to allow the BSC to negotiate cheaper power contracts, and urges the government to insist on an EEC restriction on imports.

The report, from seven Conservative backbenchers and four Labour, is bound to fuel the controversy on the size of the country's steel industry.

It follows reports last week that the BSC's new corporate plan, to be submitted to the Government by the end of the month, will recommend the closure of one of two of the corporation's five integrated steelworks and the loss of another 15,000 jobs.

The committee says that the decision announced in December 1982 by Mr Patrick Jenkin, then Secretary of State for Industry, to keep open all five BSC integrated steelworks.

Closure of one of the three BSC strip mills - at Ravenscraig in Scotland, Llanwern and Port Talbot in South Wales - advocated by the new BSC chairman Mr Robert Haslam - is rejected.

In a key paragraph the committee, chaired by the Conservative MP for Hastings, Mr Kenneth Warren, says that decisions about future BSC capacity should not be dominated by the EEC intention to abolish steel production quotas and state aids by the end of 1985. "In our opinion BSC must be prepared to increase both its home market share and EEC exports."

The committee also attacks proposals for the privatization of the BSC's engineering steels activity by merger with GKN, the so-called Phoenix II scheme. This, it says, would eliminate domestic competition.

Mr Bill Sims, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said the report should kill once and for all "foolish ill-informed speculation" about the closure of one of the three big plants, which were working flat out. Profits were being made and productivity could not be matched anywhere in Europe, he said.

The BSC's losses, aggravated by the coal strike, and currently about £3m a week.

## Services to get private back-up

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Private contractors are to be asked to tender for RAF aircraft maintenance, Royal Navy ship repair, the repair of Army equipment, and military transport contracts - work which could be worth more than £1,000m a year.

Details are to be announced by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, in the annual Statement on Defence Estimates, to be published next month.

But Mr John Lee, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Defence Procurement, has told a backbench colleague, Mr Richard Ryder, MP for Norfolk Mid, that the ministry intends "rigorously" to pursue competition "in the areas of support, supply and maintenance services, on the principle that only work which is necessary for operational reasons, or where there is advantage to the taxpayer, should be carried out within the Ministry of Defence."

"Further details of these measures will be published in due course."

A leaked Ministry of Defence report disclosed last month that Mr Peter Levene, a special adviser, had urged Mr Heseltine to put Royal Dockyard ship repair and refit work worth an estimated £450m, out to the private sector.

## MSC avoid split on Jobcentres

By David Felton

A deep split in the Manpower Services Commission over radical reorganisation of the Jobcentre network - including the loss of 800 civil service jobs has been avoided.

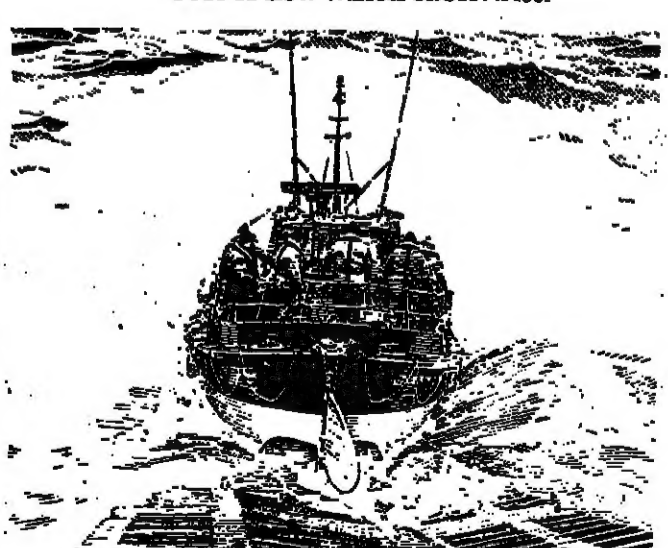
The planned four-year overhaul will be re-examined in detail and a handful of pilot schemes will be established to monitor the controversial proposals for "Jobpoints" operating out of shops, banks, libraries and post offices, with only one or two staff and using new technology.

The nine-strong commission yesterday was saved from splitting over the proposals by a skilful compromise involving a wide-ranging consultation exercise involving the staff, which was engineered by Mr David Young, MSC chairman.

The proposals will be looked at again in September.

## £10 can help launch a lifeboat.

1 hour's fuel (slipway launched lifeboat): £10.  
Firing of maroons to alert crew: £40.  
Cost of new winch cable: £400.



A lifeboat needs to be launched, on average, every 3 hours somewhere around our coasts. We depend on volunteer crews, we receive no government grants and, to continue our service, we need your help - in the form of a membership subscription, donation or legacy - as desperately as someone in distress needs ours. And we can promise you that every contribution's welcome. Whether it's a tenner to help send an existing lifeboat down the slipway for the umpteenth time, or several thousand to help a new lifeboat down the slipway for the first time.

To: The Director, RNLI, West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset BH12 1JZ.  
I wish to join Shoreline. Here is my subscription. Member £5 or more p.a. £  
Family Membership £10 or more p.a. £  
Life Member & Governor £100 or more p.a. £  
Life Member & Governor £100 or more p.a. £  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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Royal National Lifeboat Institution

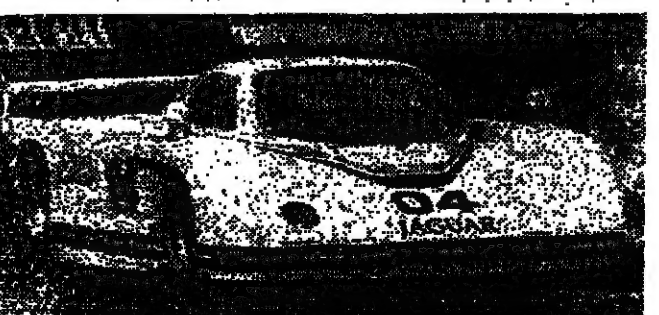
## Jaguar to return to the scene of former glories

By Jeremy Shaw

Jaguar cars are to return to the Le Mans 24-hour motor race after an absence of 24 years. The Coventry marque dominated the French classic during the 1950s, with five victories in the most famous and gruelling of all motor races, but has not been officially involved since the withdrawal of the works team in 1964.

That is now about to change. Over the last two years, alterations in the regulations governing the race, and the world endurance championship of which it is a part, have inspired the interest of several of the world's leading car manufacturers.

Porsche were the first to see the renewed possibility of prestige offered to the victors of this famous event, and the



The new XJR-5: already victorious in the US

German cars dominated the races of 1982 and 1983. Recently, however, Aston Martin - Jaguar's great British rivals in the 1950s - have announced their intention of backing a return to Le Mans, and Lancia are also entering a

team in this year's race, which is to be held on June 16-17. Also on the 78-strong entry list, published last night by the race organizers, the Automobile Club de l'Ouest, are two Jaguar cars, which have been built and raced in America.

The new interest shown by Jaguar has evolved as a result of the current regulations, which demand a combination of engine power and fuel economy.

In Winchester, west Virginia, the experienced Jaguar racer Bob Tulius seized upon the possibilities offered by a modified version of Jaguar's V12 engine. He commissioned a completely new car, examples of which went on to win four races in last season's US endurance racing championship.

The six-litre XJR-5 has since attracted the official blessing of the parent British company, and currently leads the 1984 US championship following a victory in the recent Miami Grand Prix.

Jaguar's greatest day in motor racing came at Le Mans in 1957, when their D-type models took the first four places. Mike Hawthorn and Stirling Moss were among their drivers during that decade, and even now, only Ferrari and Porsche have won the Le Mans race more times than Jaguar.

The British company, which is providing financial and technical support for the American team, is careful not to raise expectations to high. "It is no longer a question, in this kind of racing, of hoping to win at the first attempt," a spokesman for Jaguar said last night. "Our entry is still conditional on further testing. We are going to Le Mans to learn, and we hope to perform respectably."



# Directors and managers in industry 'losing out' in wages league

By Edward Townsend,  
Industrial Correspondent

Managers of British industry and commerce are losing out in the wages league to manual workers, according to the annual survey of salaries conducted by the British Institute of Management.

Last year, managers earned pay increases of 7.2 per cent compared with estimated earnings in Britain, which rose by 7.7 per cent. Directors suffered worst, with a year's wage rise of 6.2 per cent.

Mr Roy Close, director-general of the institute said yesterday that he was puzzled by the results of the survey. Profitability and productivity had increased remarkably in the past two years and, in spite of the payment of higher bonuses, managers' pay rises had not been more than the rest of the work force.

"This is the principal and disquieting trend in the year's survey. Managers' increases are, on average, running behind increases in the economy generally."

The institute's survey covered 242 organizations and

## GROSS SALARIES

|                    | 1983<br>Survey<br>Average | 1984<br>Survey<br>Average | %<br>change |
|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| A Chief executive  | 41602                     | 45033                     | 8.3         |
| B Senior director  | 38400                     | 41394                     | 7.8         |
| C Director         | 28852                     | 30232                     | 4.4         |
| D Senior manager   | 22730                     | 24643                     | 8.4         |
| E Manager          | 18677                     | 20563                     | 10.7        |
| F Senior executive | 16108                     | 17502                     | 8.7         |
| G Executive        | 14618                     | 15498                     | 6.0         |
| H Junior executive | 12278                     | 12856                     | 4.7         |
| I Junior manager   | 10739                     | 11548                     | 7.5         |

A chief executive; B senior director; C director; D senior manager; E manager; F senior executive; G executive; H junior executive; I junior manager.

19,757 individuals. It shows that the average gross salary of a company chief executive has risen from £41,602 in 1982 to £45,033, an increase of 8.3 per cent. The pay of a middle rank manager has grown from £18,577 to £20,563.

The institute says that in spite of increased pay, the average British manager has not kept pace with his shop-floor colleague.

Mr Close added: "A further estimate shows that if we take into account measures announced last month by the

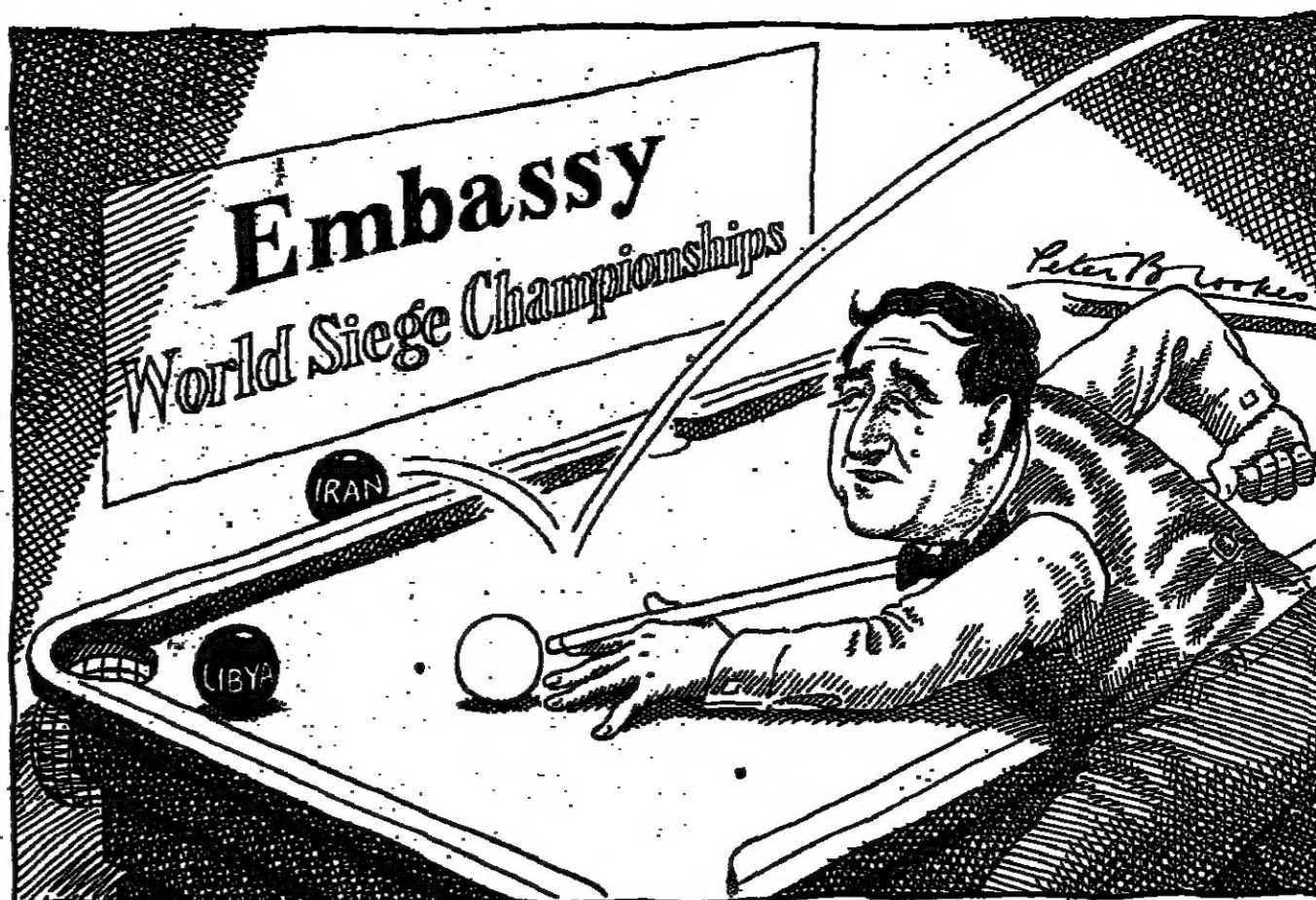
Chancellor and all relevant factors such as pay rises, prices and benefit, which are expected to rise by 5 per cent by January, 1985, the middle-manager will again be seen to have gained least from these changes."

The survey revealed a significant increase in bonus payments. Last year, 41 per cent of directors received a bonus averaging £4,393 and representing 12.6 per cent of total earnings. That compares with £3,395 paid to 38.5 per cent of directors in the 1983 survey.

North American-owned companies continue to pay higher bonuses than British-owned firms.

The institute says that in spite of increases in the taxation of company cars, the perk continues to go up in popularity. The survey records the highest number, 98 per cent of directors and 63 per cent of managers, now receiving a company-owned car.

Share options are also on the increase. More than 40 per cent of directors and 37 per cent of managers covered by the survey were included in company-sponsored share option schemes.



## Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

It is curious that the Labour Party new seems to be associating itself so closely with the miners' strike. At first Mr Kinnock and his colleagues seemed to be trying to keep their distance from the dispute. That was understandable. It is the kind of conflict that is liable to be particularly damaging to Labour because it links the party in the eyes of the public with an unpopular strike and the most disliked and feared of all union leaders today.

Labour leaders were therefore placed in an exceedingly difficult position. They could not come out openly against the strike without causing the most appalling reactions within the party. Yet to come out openly for it would expose them to the charge of being "Scargill's men". The natural course was to advocate a ballot in accordance with union rules, to maintain that none of this trouble would have arisen if the Government had been a bit more adroit, and apart from that to say as little as possible.

That appeared to be Mr Kinnock's line until he came out strongly in support of the miners in his speech to the Scottish TUC last week. Now the party's national executive committee has asked constituency parties to levy a minimum of 50 pence a week from their members for the strike fund, even though Mr Kinnock had earlier called for a miners' ballot and there has not yet been one.

## Remarkable gesture of solidarity

One waits with some scepticism to see how much more will actually be provided in this way for the miners, but at the very least it is a remarkable gesture of solidarity. When a statement on the dispute was made to the Commons on Wednesday there was no doubt that Labour MPs too are now ranging themselves alongside the miners.

Yet it cannot be in Labour's best interests to associate closely with Mr Scargill or to build him up. Indeed, it would suit the party best in the long run for Mr Scargill to lose. This would certainly be to the advantage of the Conservatives as a government, but it would also indirectly help Labour as a party.

The Conservatives won such a sweeping victory last June partly because of their own virtues - the reputation of a strong administration with a decisive Prime Minister - but also because of fear of what a Labour government would do. That fear was linked with two names, Benn and Scargill: one representing militancy within the party, the other militancy within the unions. If Labour is to win next time the bogey of militancy needs to be laid in both directions.

The National executives' decision on Wednesday to confirm the expulsion of six Militant Tendency supporters suggests that the leadership is alive to the need to clear our extremism from the party. But if Mr Scargill were to win, extremism within the unions would be strengthened. The Government would be dealt a devastating blow, yet Labour would find that the albatross round its neck had grown larger. An outcome that left the Government enfeebled and Labour apparently in thrall to militancy would benefit only the Alliance.

## Scargill's demise would lay 1974 ghost

But what did Mr Scargill's defeat? The Government and its supporters would justifiably celebrate a triumph: the ghost of 1974 would have been laid. Yet Labour leaders would also have cause for a quiet smile in private. They could not afford to rejoice in public over the discomfiture of such a prominent union leader.

But it would not only be the Government to whom Mr Scargill would no longer pose such a threat. The voters would not be so alarmed by him either. The forces of moderate trade unionism would be encouraged and it would not be easy for the Conservatives to win next time through the Scargill factor.

The immediate effect of the strike is bound to be embarrassing for Labour: both the party and Mr Kinnock personally have lost ground in the opinion polls already. But in the long run Labour would have to gain from the eclipse of Mr Scargill provided that the party does not become locked in such a close embrace with him that it is impossible for one to slide without pulling down the other.

## A green oasis rises from Liverpool dump

From John Young, Liverpool

Merseyside is a perennially surprising place but it can seldom have produced anything so striking as the International Garden Festival which the Queen will open next Wednesday on the site of a former rubbish dump.

It is an unequivocally spectacular achievement; 250 acres of urban decay transformed in less than two and a half years into a rolling green landscape, with thousands of trees, shrubs and flowers, lakes and waterfalls and marvellous views over the Mersey estuary.

The success of the festival is not helped by the fact that in yesterday's sunshine it was a place to be glad to see.

In December 1981 the riverside site was, in the words of Mr Basil Bean, chief executive of Merseyside Development Corporation, a scene of utter dereliction. It consisted of a disused dock, the remains of

oil tanks, and a pile of refuse spewing out dangerous methane gas. More than 800,000 tons of rubble had to be excavated and used for landscaping and for covering the refuse.

The £14m capital costs and the anticipated £6m operating costs of the five and a half month festival have been underwritten by the development corporation, which hopes to recoup up to £12m in admission receipts and from franchising and sponsorship.

Mr Bean said that, given reasonable weather, he expected around three million visitors.

He said: "On the economic side, our main objective is to create long-term jobs in tourism and service industries. It is also an image-building exercise to restore confidence to Liverpool and Merseyside and to stimulate new investment."

## Wait before trial may be limited

By Richard Evans

A statutory restriction on the time defendants have to wait before trial, similar to the Scottish 110-day rule, is likely to be recommended for England and Wales by the Commons home affairs select committee.

The influential all-party body, which has concluded a four-month investigation into the issues of remand in custody and the backlog of cases facing courts, is expected to favour an experiment on Scottish lines, based on guidelines laid down by the Lord Chief Justice.

In Scotland, with certain exceptions, defendants are freed if they are not tried 110 days after committal.

## Kinnock to back policy on incomes

By Anthony Davies  
Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock believes that Labour should go into the next election with a firm commitment to a formal incomes policy.

The Labour leader did not make great play of his belief in pay controls during his leadership election campaign last year, and there is little information on his views since. But it has now been confirmed that he stands by specific replies given to *The Times* during the Beaconsfield by-election on May 13, 1982.

He said then: "A policy for incomes is necessary, both in the interests of economic development of this country, for the purposes of a planned stimulation of demand and for the purpose of safeguarding very large numbers of workers from the effects of low pay."

Mr Kinnock said that such a policy would have to combine a statutory minimum wage.

It is thought that private polling has shown that Labour's lack of counter-inflation policy is causing misgivings among potential supporters in the C1, white-collar trade union class, which is so vital for Labour.

## No transfer request on Observer

By Alan Hamilton

The dispute between the proprietor and editor of *The Observer* reached the Commons yesterday, with Mr Peter Shore, the shadow Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, accusing Mr "Tiny" Rowland of displaying the insolence of wealth and the arrogance of power, and the Prime Minister assuring MPs that the Government had received no approaches concerning the newspaper's possible sale to a new owner.

Mr Shore claimed that *The Observer* proprietor's conduct in publicly rebuking his editor, and his subsequent threats to close the newspaper, suit it off, or withdraw advertising revenue from it, were a breach of the agreements established when Mr Rowland assumed ownership of Britain's oldest national Sunday newspaper three years ago.

Mrs Thatcher had been asked by the Liberal leader, Mr David Steel, to condemn the activities of Mr Rowland's company, Lario, as "the unacceptable face of capitalism."

## Unionists present devolution plan

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Proposals for administrative devolution in Northern Ireland were unveiled by the Official Unionist Party yesterday in an attempt to present a constructive image before next week's report of the New Ireland in Dublin.

The document, released in London and Belfast, appeared as reports indicated that the forum will propose a conference between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic to draw up a constitution for a 32-county republic. But the Official Unionists believe the forum is unlikely to produce any plan for pluralism because of opposition from the Roman Catholic church and partitionist republicans.

Mr James Moynihan, leader of the Official Unionists, said: "I think that the forum with its solutions and proposals will be seen to be completely absurd and unacceptable here in London."

He party, which has boycotted the Northern Ireland Assembly since the end of last year, wants it to become Northern Ireland's administrative body dividing up areas of responsibility among several committees. Under their plan the Assembly would be transformed into a type of regional council administering non-controversial areas such as health, education, planning and agriculture.

It could have no law-making powers or Cabinet government but would be a "partnership" between unionists and nationalists, the chairman and vice-chairman of the committee would be distributed in proportion to party strength.

The Official Unionists believe a wide degree of consensus exists in many areas and points to the work being done by the 26 district councils where both sides work together.

More than 700 charges are to be brought against 38 republican prisoners who escaped from the Maze jail. They include murder, attempted murder and possession of firearms.

Northern Ireland has been led into the present deadlock by power politics and the politics of self-interest, Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, said in Dublin yesterday.

Addressing the Emigrant Chaplains' Association, he urged the British Government to show the same political will in solving the Ulster crisis as had been shown during the Falklands conflict.

A man found dead in a Belfast park yesterday had been severely beaten around the head by his killers, James Spiers, aged 19, was found with his arms crossed over his chest in Ormeau Park, south Belfast.

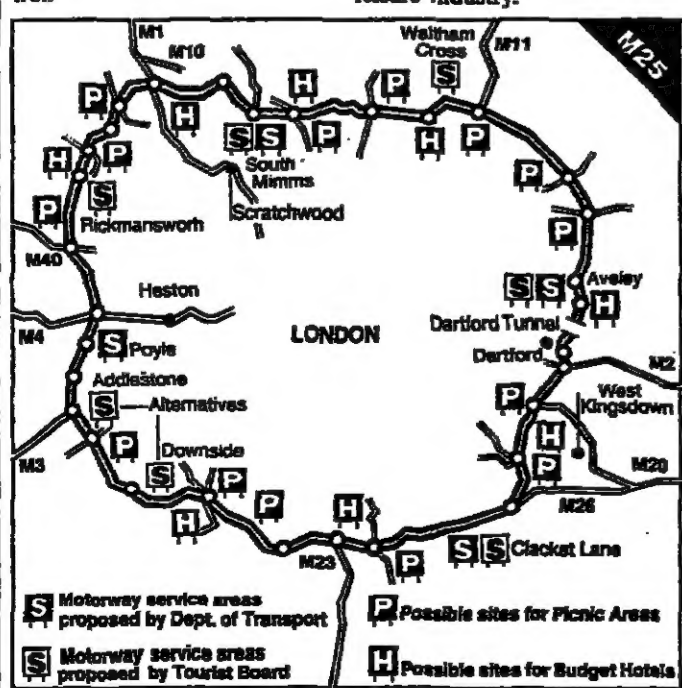
## Call to expand M25 tourism

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

An urgent appeal to the Government regard London's M25 orbital motorway as a leading tourist attraction and source of job creation was made by the English Tourist Board yesterday.

The board wants a chain of tourist hotels, picnic sites, and caravan parks around the 120-mile M25, and six high quality motorway services areas instead of the four currently proposed by the Department of Transport.

It wants the development of the sites handed over to private developers instead of the present arrangements under Department of Transport control.



## 'Accept ballot cash' call to engineering leaders

Moderate engineering workers are pressing leaders of Britain's second-largest union to defy TUC policy and accept government money for secret postal ballots.

The 52-man policy-making national committee of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (engineering section) will be asked next week to take up the offer of state cash for elections to full-time office.

The proposals come from moderates in the union's Shropshire and Cheshire division, who argue in a motion to the union's conference that engineering workers' leaders should be instructed to accept government contribution towards the cost of any postal ballot "in the event of ballots for trade union

executives becoming a legal requirement."

A rival motion from front-wingers in Hampshire urges the union to continue with its present policy of boycotting funds available from the Government under its trade union laws, "keeping in step with the TUC which has refused state cash since the Employment Act, 1980 became law."

The moderates' move has the personal backing of Mr Terry Duffy, president of the million-strong AUEW, and a majority of his executive council of seven. But it is not expected to be carried.

A similar proposal was easily defeated at the engineering workers' conference three years ago.

## Use of jail body belts 'increasing'

By Frances Gibb,  
Correspondent Legal Affairs

Medieval-style body belts fitted with handcuffs are increasingly being used in Britain's prisons, according to a report by the Prison Reform Trust published today.

In one year, from 1981 to 1982, their use on non-medical grounds nearly trebled from 41 occasions to 107, the report says.

The body belt is a thick leather strap which is fastened round the prisoner's waist and has handcuffs (iron for men, leather for women), attached to a ring on either side.

According to prisoners who have worn the belt, the arms cannot be stretched out and the body becomes hunched, with cramp often setting in, the report says.

The report also discloses an increase in the use of solitary confinement.

The most frequently used form of solitary confinement is the stripped cell which usually contains only a mattress. It is of "major concern" that these are not mentioned in the Prison Rules, and that their use is not recorded in official statistics, the report says.

The report calls for publication of complete statistics on segregation for standards on accommodation in special and stripped cells, and for the abolition of the body belt.

"Beyond Restraint: the use of body belts, special, stripped and padded cells in Britain's prisons." (Prison Reform Trust, Nuffield Lodge, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RS, £2).

## Teachers plan special meeting on flat-rate pay

The National Union of Teachers, Britain's largest teaching union, will hold a special delegate conference later this year to settle the controversy over flat rate salary increases and proposals to restructure wage scales.

The 1,800 delegates to the union's annual conference in Blackpool voted yesterday to opt for a flat rate claim rather than a percentage one but the conference ran out of time and was unable to vote on.

The flat rate issue surfaced earlier this week when young teachers swung against executive pay cuts and gave their strong backing if the NUT adopts this type of claim it would overturn the union's 15-year policy

## Retrial ordered

Mr Benjamin Jamilo, aged 47, district maintenance officer for Wandsworth Council, who denies bribery charges involving £1,000 is to face retrial at the Central Criminal Court

Overseas selling prices  
Australia \$25; Belgium 80; Canada 22; France 170; Germany 100; Italy 100; Japan 100; Netherlands 100; New Zealand 100; Norway 100; Sweden 100; Switzerland 100; Taiwan 100; Thailand 100; USA 100; West Germany 100; Yugoslavia 100

Mr Arthur Scargill making an aside to photographers while waiting for marchers to catch up during a rally at Blyth, Northumberland, yesterday.



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Highland Regional Council



## BUPA agrees package deal with private hospitals to control costs

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Britain's largest private health insurer, the British United Provident Association (BUPA) yesterday announced a deal with 140 private hospitals which, it claimed, would control costs and limit subscription increases.

The package includes agreements with the largest private hospital groups including Nuffield Hospitals, American Medical International and the Hospital Corporation of America.

It will allow subscribers to the association to be treated at predetermined charges, which will be fixed for up to a year at a time.

Subscription costs to the association and other medical insurers have risen by an average of 15 to 20 per cent in recent years, well above inflation. The association's set to rise another 5 per cent in July. Mr Bob Graham, its chief executive, said that the agreement "hopefully will help us to reduce subscription increases".

In the face of steep increases in costs, the growth in the numbers covered by private health insurance, now 4.2 million, has slowed to about 3 to 4 per cent a year on the association's figures.

Under the new agreement the first indication that competing interests in the private medical sector may be willing to work together, the association is agreeing a range of charges with each hospital to cover accommodation, meals, operating theatre fees, drugs, dressings and nursing care, so producing a daily rate for time in hospital.

BUPA will pay the hospitals direct, on a monthly basis, simplifying administration on the need for subscribers to pay the hospital and reclaim. Doctors' fees, however, will still have first to be paid direct by subscribers.

The association refused to reveal the figures it had agreed with each hospital. Competitors said privately that they believed the deal to be cosmetic.

Private Patients Plan, which covers about 20 per cent of the market, against BUPA's 70 per cent plus, is planning to announce next week its own reunion of insurance premiums, starting with company groups, which it claims will help control private hospital charges significantly.

Mr Graham, the association's chief executive said that the new agreement "means that

greater stability in private sector costs is now possible".

Under the package, new subscribers and those renewing their subscription, will take out cover for hospitals categorized into A, B, and C within the association's existing scheme for individuals, groups and companies in London and outside.

Under the association's increased rates from July, which will represent about a 9 per cent increase on the year after the rise of 4 to 5 per cent in subscriptions last January, a married man with a family aged between 30 and 49 would pay a maximum of £55.73 a month, or £668.76 annually for cover in any hospital, including the more expensive London ones.

For cover in national health service provincial hospitals, or local independent hospitals outside London, the equivalent cover would cost £37.98 or £455.76 a year.

For C-category hospitals, non-teaching hospitals, and most local hospitals outside London, the cost would be £30.85 or £370.20.

Group subscriptions and other arrangements can reduce the costs.

## Software purchases of £400m forecast

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

More than £400m worth of microcomputer programs will be purchased for British homes in 1988, and half will be used for education, a report published yesterday says.

The study by the Economist Intelligence Unit of the British microcomputer industry assessed the value of the software market last year at £127m. That represents a growth of 170 per cent on 1982.

The report concludes: "The results of the survey show that 85 per cent of all software sold in 1983 is used in conjunction with micros costing less than £2,000; that is, low-priced personal computers and home computers."

The educational demand for computer programs is growing fast. Child education software grew from £1m worth of sales in 1982 to £10m within 12 months. By 1987/8 the educational market outside the home - schools, colleges, universities - will be worth £45m.

According to the unit's researchers: "People are starting to buy software for the computers they have already purchased."

The growth of the computer sales will diminish and be

superceded by the purchase of software.

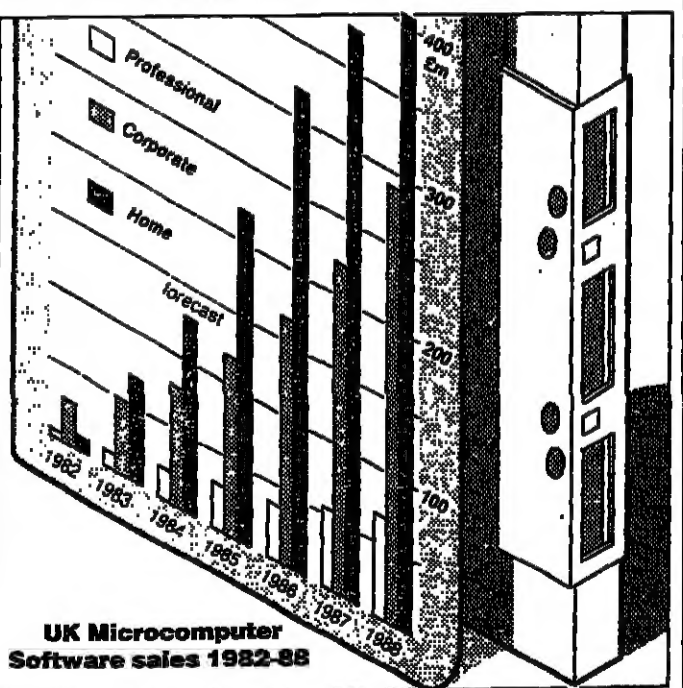
Boots and W. H. Smith now account for more than 20 per cent of the software sales to home computer users.

The markets for microcomputer software in Europe is published in five volumes. The British volume is available from the unit at St James's Place, London SW1A 1NT. Price £1.100.

What claims to be the first microcomputer literacy school in Britain is to open at the end of the month in London. The organizers say that thousands of microcomputers all over the country are not being used to their full capacity or are not being used at all.

Three types of course are offered by the Microcomputer Literacy School, Gillingham Street, London SW1V 1HN, each 15 hours long. They start from fundamentals and work through to applications.

Acorn, the manufacturer of the BBC microcomputer, has formed a joint venture with BSR International, to develop the technology used by Philips on its video discs as a method of storing information for microcomputers.



## Austin takes lead in new car sales

By Clifford Webb

Austin Rover chiefs already celebrating yesterday's launch of the Montego family saloon last night added a rare victory over Ford in the battle for market leadership in Britain.

Official new car registration figures issued by the Society for Motor Manufacturers and Traders showed that in the first 20 days of this month Austin Rover picked up 25.5 per cent of sales, beating Ford's 25.2 per cent. General Motors (Vauxhall and Opel) was third with 15.4 per cent.

Austin Rover is unlikely to retain leadership for the month as a whole, but the state-owned group's improved showing may force Mr Sam Toy, Ford's chief executive, to bring back the big discount bonuses for his dealers, which he dropped six months ago.

Austin Rover dealers are enjoying bonuses of several hundred pounds on each Metro and Maestro they sell above three-tier targets. Those bonuses, which operate until June 15, came after a similar campaign by General Motors, which lifted it to second place ahead of Austin Rover last February.

Importers suffered because of the increased competition in an already fiercely discounted market, their share falling from 57.9 per cent to 50.7 per cent.

## Haemophilia link made after 30-year search

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The missing factor which affects the life of every haemophiliac has been genetically engineered for the first time in a joint project involving British and American scientists. It is likely substantially to help sufferers of the disease when it becomes commercially available.

Factor VIII is the blood-clotting protein which is absent in haemophiliacs and who are as a result vulnerable to uncontrollable loss of blood. Until now Factor VIII has been produced in an expensive and complex process from blood plasma obtained from human donors, and is relatively impure.

The process carries the risk of exposing haemophiliac patients to hepatitis and possibly AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). In a search which began 30 years ago, scientists have sought to provide a safer, surer and more plentiful supply of Factor VIII.

Yesterday, in announcements made in London and San Francisco, details of the successful genetically engineered form of Factor VIII were revealed. The project involved a team of eight at the haemophilia centre and immunology department at the Royal Free Hospital school of medicine, London, the Speywood Laboratories in Clwyd, and Genentech Inc, of San Francisco.

During three years of re-

search, more than five tons of human plasma was purified at Wrexham and at the Royal Free Hospital to provide Factor VIII which was then sent to Genentech scientists for further investigation.

In a typical 25-hour phase of the purification process at the hospital, input of the equivalent of 1200 blood donations produced just one milligram of Factor VIII, which would be enough for just four doses for a patient.

Dr Edward Tuddenham, the project director at the Royal Free Hospital, said: "In time, genetically engineered Factor VIII may replace the protein currently extracted from human blood plasma."

Mr Ken Milne, a member of the executive committee of the Haemophilia Society, which represents Britain's 4,500 sufferers from the disease, inheritable only in males, said: "We want adequate supplies of Factor VIII without such side effects as hepatitis."

"We have to be realistic. This new form of Factor VIII is unlikely to be generally available until perhaps the end of the decade."

Several years of work remain before the product will be available for use by haemophiliacs, according to Genentech. It is to be marketed in Europe by Speywood Laboratories of Wrexham.



Broadsword revisited: Princess Alexandra holding on to her hat during a windy inspection of the frigate's guard of honour yesterday.

## Princess visits ship that survived 'bouncing bomb'

Princess Alexandra visited HMS Broadsword at Devonport yesterday to unveil a new battle honours board.

Broadsword, which the princess launched on the

Clyde in 1976, was nearly sunk during the Falklands conflict.

A 1,000 lb bomb hit the sea 15 feet short of the frigate. It then bounced through her stern.

Princess Alexandra, who was present at the ship's commissioning in 1979, spent much of her visit talking to 23 of the crew who took part in the Falklands campaign.

## Sanctions against solicitors 'inadequate'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Tougher sanctions against incompetent solicitors and a written professional code of conduct are urged by the Law Society for Scotland, the legal ombudsman, in a report published yesterday.

Mrs Joan Macintosh, monitors the handling of complaints by the Law Society of Scotland, says its treatment of complainants is "stringent".

But the sanctions available to tackle incompetent solicitors are inadequate, she says. Although the society has power to deal with grave misconduct and minor misdemeanours, it has little power to tackle wrongdoing in between.

Furthermore, she says "the important point for aggrieved clients is that virtually none of the sanctions actually provides for any compensation."

Mrs Macintosh also urges greater publicity for the complaints procedures of the Law Society and Lay Observer. In 1983, she received 8 complaints, compared with 45 in 1982. Half arrived in the last two months of the year after appointment.

Seventh annual report of the Scottish Lay Observer 1983: HC Paper 372 (Stationery Office £3.30 net).

## Ombudsman criticizes MSC for refusing aid

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Manpower Services Commission is criticized by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (the Ombudsman) in his report published yesterday for refusing to help an unemployed man with removal expenses that he would incur in taking a new job.

In his report for 1983-84, Sir Cecil Clothier upholds the man's complaint of maladministration by the commission. The man had asked for an extension of the one-year period in which he was entitled to receive allowances under the Employment Transfer Scheme because of difficulty in selling his house. The scheme is designed to encourage unemployed people to move to take up job vacancies which would otherwise remain unfilled.

The Manpower Services Commission granted him another six months.

Sir Cecil said that the basis for granting the previous extension was equally valid when the complainant wanted a further short extension.

The commission has since granted the man a further extension.

Sixth report of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Stationery Office, £6.40 net).

## 'Moonies' lose venue

By Andrew Lycett

Leeds Castle, which has played host to Middle East and EEC summit meetings, cancelled a conference scheduled to start this morning because it discovered at the last minute that it was sponsored by the Unification Church, the group known as "the Moonies".

A three-day meeting by a body calling itself the Professors' World Peace Academy was to have been held in the Cuspeper Conference Centre adjoining the castle, which is run by the Leeds Castle Foundation, a charity and

which has been trying to improve its income since the arrival of a new managing director, Mr Andrew Grant, from San Diego Zoo, California, last year.

However, Mr Grant was away last week. The castle authorities were alerted to the Unification Church background to the conference only on Tuesday. The next day, Mr Edmund Williams, manager, planning and administration, consulted the trustees, about whether or not to cancel it.

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## PARLIAMENT April 26 1984

# Thatcher resists calls to intervene in miners' strike

## COMMONS

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, repeatedly resisted demands from Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, during questions in the Commons, to intervene and resolve the coal mining dispute.

Instead, she criticized the National Union of Mineworkers for failing to attend meetings of the industry's consultative committees, which was the place where the strike could be resolved.

The "extremely reasonable" pay offer made to the miners would keep their pay 2.5 per cent above average industrial pay. She referred again to her Government's high investment record in the coal industry and during the exchanges told Mr Kinnock "Try and match that."

These began when Mr Kinnock asked if Mr MacGregor, chairman of the National Coal Board, had informed the Government of his willingness to revise the timing of his closure programme.

Mrs Thatcher: Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, is regularly informed by Mr MacGregor about the details but I understand that it is under the regular consultative machinery that any suggestions were made by Mr MacGregor to the unions in the industry.

Mr Kinnock: The Prime Minister did not answer the question. I think the word she was groping for was "no." (Laughter) As the chairman of the NCB did not see fit to inform the Government, what validity does she think others can put on that reported offer?

Could she get the chairman of the NCB and use the fact that she has to do that, and play her full part in satisfactorily resolving this dispute?

How long is she going to go on trying to pretend that she who throws her policies in the air and this conflict, has nothing to do with it?

Mrs Thatcher: This Government leaves the NCB to get on with the management of the industry within the objectives it has given and within the financial arrangements which have been made, which are the most generous any governments has ever made for the coal industry.

Under this Government one would not expect demand to be regularly passed on to the management of the coal board and the Secretary of State for Energy.

The NCB chairman made clear the board are ready to continue to discuss all the industry's problems and how best to achieve the restructuring necessary to realise a high volume, low-cost industry, which is the board's aim.

It is a matter of regret to all those who want to see the industry resolve the present difficulties that the NUM have not attended any of the

recent meetings of the industry's consultative committees. If they wish to resolve this dispute as would like them to do that is the place where it can be resolved.

Mr Kinnock: The continued argument that the Prime Minister puts that she has got nothing to do with these things does not convince anyone at all. She clearly gave Mr MacGregor his remit, he takes orders, she is in the position to change those orders and stop this current conflict.

Does the Prime Minister acknowledge that while the level of investment is higher, under the last Labour Government investment in the coal mining industry went up 160 per cent over five years but under this Government it has gone up 9.2 per cent over four years.

Mrs Thatcher: I do not think percentages are relevant - (Laughter) - particularly when one looks at the base figures.

This Government since I went into No 10 Downing Street, £3,800m has been invested in the coal industry and it is expected, assuming this management continues, that a further £3,000m will be invested over the next four years. Try to match that. (Conservative cheers)

Mr Dennis Canavan (Falkirk, West, Lab): As the NUM has offered to meet the NCB to discuss the agenda for expansion of the industry rather than its contraction, is it not about time she stopped shirking her responsibilities and intervened to try to bring about an amicable agreement between the two sides?

Mrs Thatcher: I do not think the word she was groping for was "no." (Laughter) As the chairman of the NCB did not see fit to inform the Government, what validity does she think others can put on that reported offer?

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## Thatcher: Board ready to discuss problems

his stewardship of the steel industry, took steel production to the level of the thirties and is now cutting production to 90m tonnes, the lowest level for 120 years since 1864.

Is it the Prime Minister's intention that the future of the working class should be the levels of production, the wages, the employment level and the policing of the 19th century?

Mrs Thatcher: World capacity of steel is 900m tonnes; world demand 650m tonnes and therefore production had to be cut in the western industrialised countries substantially while we are giving aid to people to build steel plants in other countries.

The main way to expand coal production is to expand the use of coal. The NCB is doing high volume, low cost coal, and investment directed to achieving a prosperous coal industry which will be of more benefit to those who work in it.

Mr Harry Greenwood (Ealing, North, C): Will she condemn wholeheartedly political strikes and the financing or attempted financing of the present miners' strike by a political fund. (Labour laughter)

Mrs Thatcher: This dispute shows great differences between the miners who work in the industry.

If one looks at it on merit, there is an extremely reasonable pay offer which will keep miners pay at about 25 per cent above average industrial pay, with generous early retirement and redundancy pay offers, better than anything previous, and the investment for the future indicates this Government's faith in a prosperous coal industry.

Mr Derek Fatchett (Leeds, Central, Lab): Will she indicate whether she would be satisfied with the situation I experienced at first hand, of a person going about legal and legitimate business being held by the police for five hours, being photographed by the police, questioned about his personal bank account, his debts, hire purchase commitments, cautioned by the police and told he was not able to go into Nottinghamshire again.

Is she satisfied with that sort of policing or does she recognize it is a direct result of her own industrial policies?

Mrs Thatcher: The best way to secure expansion is by low costs and lower prices. Then there would not only be excellent sales in this country but more possibility of exports.

Mr David Nellis (Coventry, South-East, Lab): Mr MacGregor, during

## Disgraceful treatment of Zola Budd

### Next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday: Further progress in committee on Finance (No 2) Bill. Wednesday: Health and Social Security Bill, remaining stages. Thursday: Further progress in committee on Finance (No 2) Bill. Friday: Debate on Griffiths report on national health service management.

The main business in the House of Lords will be: Monday: Further progress in committee on Finance (No 2) Bill. Tuesday: London Regional Transport Bill, second reading. Wednesday: Debate on the diffusion of private property. Thursday: Juries (Disqualification) Bill, second reading.

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# Observer conditions of transfer not breached

## FLEET STREET

No application for consent to the transfer of *The Observer* to a new owner has been made to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in the Commons.

She did not reply directly to a request by Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party, that she should echo the words of her predecessor, Mr Edward Heath, in condemning the activities of Latham as the unacceptable face of capitalism.

Mrs Thatcher said that if an application was made it would be considered under the relevant provisions of the Fair Trading Act. It did not seem to her that Mr Steel had said what he meant.

Mr Newman Tabbitt, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said later in reply to a private notice question about the newspaper's future, that he proposed to take no action unless a transfer of ownership fell within the provisions of the Fair Trading Act of 1973.

That Act (the continued) provides that any consent is required to the transfer of a newspaper above a certain size to a newspaper proprietor.

I may only give consent after consultation with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission unless I am satisfied that the newspaper in question is economically a going concern and that it is not intended to continue as a separate newspaper.

I have received no application for my consent in relation to *The Observer*.

Mr Peter Shore, Chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, who had asked the question, said he

was sorry that Mr Tabbitt did not appear to share the widespread concern felt about the threat to the future and indeed the future independence of *The Observer*.

Mr Tabbitt said he had sought to do, in the public display of the independence of wealth and the arrogance of power which has accompanied that threat.

Did Mr Tabbitt not recall the statement made by his predecessor in July 1981, as a condition of the sale of *The Observer*, that the editor "should not be subject to restraint in expressing opinion or reporting news that might conflict with the opinions or interests of the proprietor?"

It was the unanimous opinion of the five independent and specially appointed independent directors following their meeting last Tuesday, that Mr Rowland's attempts to muzzle and denigrate the *Observer* editor "constitute an inhibition if not a restraint on the editor's freedom and further that they constitute an improper, proprietorial interference in the accurate presentation of news and the free expression of opinion."

Does Mr Tabbitt agree (he continued) and does he also agree that Mr Rowland's further threats to close down, sell off, withdraw advertising and impose harsh financial targets on *The Observer* amount to a deliberate and massive effort further to censor the editor and deny him the free expression of his opinions?

Under Section 62 of the Fair Trading Act 1973, where a transfer of ownership of a newspaper has been made and where those conditions have been breached, the person concerned, "shall be guilty of an offence carrying with it on conviction imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to a fine or both."

What action, if any, did Mr Tabbitt, who was clearly not without resources, intend to take to safeguard the editorial independence of *The Observer*? Would he make plain that if any sale took place to Mr Maxwell or any other interested party, the independence of the newspaper would be strengthened rather than weakened, before his consent could be obtained?

Mr Tabbitt: In the event that a transfer is proposed which comes within the provisions of the Act, it is likely that a reference may be made and then I shall take into consideration any comments that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission may make, but until

agreement dated July 9, 1981, they constitute - that is the actions of Latham - "improper proprietorial interference in the accurate presentation of news and free expression of opinion."

The memorandum of agreement dated July 9, 1981, is not made with or by or imposed by the Government. It is an agreement between Latham, the editor of *The Observer*, Outram Limited and the NUI chapel. I am advised that there has not been a breach at the moment of the conditions of transfer.

The conditions of transfer were that certain arrangements should be made through the articles of association of *The Observer* Newspaper Ltd. Those articles of association have not been changed.

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## MPs urge more action to tackle family break-ups

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

More government action and funds to prevent children being taken into care and families being broken up was called yesterday by an all-party committee of MPs.

The Social Services Select Committee, in a 160-page report with 150 recommendations and conclusions, called for:

- Government funds for local and national marriage counselling services to try to prevent marital breakdown;

- The teaching of "parenting skills" to children as part of the school curriculum;

- The provision of more child-minding and day care services to prevent children being taken into long-term care;

- The provision of the long-term supplementary benefit rate to unemployed families with children to help to prevent poverty putting children into care;

- More research by the Department of Health into the sexual abuse of children, the extent to which parents' drug and alcohol abuse leads to children entering care, and how far homelessness does the same.

Housing departments and social services need to cooperate much more to avoid eviction decisions putting children in care, the committee says.

The committee also urges the creation of family courts as a "radical departure" from the present complex court structure for families and children.

These, the committee says, "could offer the prospect of a significantly better deal for children and parents".

The committee says that in England and Wales about 93,000 children, or one in 133 aged under 18, are in care. In inner city areas the figure can be one in 50 or higher.

The reception of a child into care should not automatically be seen as failure.

But "if we used too widely and too easily, the family structure on which society rests can be endangered and parental rights put at risk; if too sparingly, children will not receive the protection to which they are entitled."

However, the committee says, there is a "noticeable absence of a positive approach to prevention."

"Society at large does not always take kindly to money being spent with uncertain results on socially incompetent families, although vastly greater sums spent on rescuing the victims of circumstances are apparently less begrudged."

Education for parenthood should be part of the school curriculum, the committee says. "It is no good teaching children how to be good citizens if they become incompetent parents."

There is a serious shortage of day care places, both for under-fives and older children during school holidays.

The committee also says there is a "crying need" for better liaison between the departments of education and health and social security, local authorities, and departments within local authorities.

*Children in Care* (Social Services Committee; House of Commons Paper 360; Stationary office: £8.40).

Leading article, page 13

## Cash change 'cheats' under fire

Unscrupulous money-changing bureaux are cheating tourists by charging as much as 9 per cent commission on deals, Westminster council claims.

A report to be submitted to the council's environment committee after an investigation of 10 bureaux, banks and travel agents, will call for new laws and a licensing system.

The council sent an American woman one day in March to change 100 dollars (£75). She paid commission ranging from 50p to £5.90 and received between £63.31 and £65.79 for her money.

The report tells of a "new breed of operators" cashing in on money-changing deals since the government lifted exchange controls in 1980.

There have been many complaints from tourists to the police, the treasury, the London Tourist Board, the English Tourist Authority and Westminster council, it says.

The report adds: "The bad feeling is causing grave concern. There are no legal sanctions."

The most rapid action would be through a GLC General Powers bill, the report adds.

## Ford upsets rivals with new diesel

By Clifford Webb

Ford surprised and upset competitors yesterday by announcing it would be the first to produce a small high-speed diesel engine of a type used before only in heavy trucks.

The direct-injection 2.5 litre engine, which cost £100m to develop, is said to cut fuel costs by 24 per cent and servicing costs by 32 per cent.

It has been in production at Dagenham since January and it is being fitted to continental-made versions of the Transit van.

But Austin Rover and Perkins, the Peterborough-based diesel engine specialists, were quick to point out that they would produce a lightweight direct-injection diesel car engine ahead of Ford.

The £21m joint project was announced nearly a year ago. The first engines will be seen in the Montego next year, followed by a turbo-charged version for the new Rover/Honda executive car, Project XX.

Perkins said: "The Ford engine is neither high revving nor lightweight like ours. Suppose you could describe it as a halfway house between a truck engine and a car engine."

## Alcohol abuse is 'more dangerous than heroin'

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Drug use and dependence should be viewed as normal and terms such as addict, junkie and alcoholic ought to be abandoned, a National Children's Bureau conference was told yesterday.

Mr Les Kay, training and advisory services organizer for the Manchester Drug Training Unit, told the conference in Cardiff that society was deeply hypocritical about drugs and their use.

Solvent abuse, which had claimed 200 lives over a decade, was clearly serious - but the 95,000 deaths a year from smoking over the same period had caused less concern.

Heroin evoked enormous fears, yet alcohol used in comparable quantities was probably more lethal, "heroin is in the small league compared to killer alcohol".

Cannabis, was illegal. Yet huge quantities of "minor" tranquilizers were consumed on prescription, often with devastating effects on people's well-being and life-style.

Ten and coffee were used as stimulants and "most of us are used to using some chemicals in every day life to change the way we feel", Mr Kay said.

Society should stop concentrating on the chemicals people used.



Crowning moment: The Sultan of Johore (second left) being sworn in yesterday for his five-year term as Malaysia's Agong (King), accompanied by the Sultans of Kedah, Perak and Perlis.

## Counting the cost of three years of drought

### Hunger stalks southern Africa as food crisis deepens

From Stephen Taylor in Harare and Michael Horasby in Johannesburg

The nations of southern Africa are facing the most acute food crisis in recent times, an enormous shortfall in regional yields which will bleed the strongest exchequers, just as it will test to the fullest the Pretoria Government's new commitment to better relations with its black neighbours.

The drought, now in its third year, has reduced the bread baskets of the region, South Africa and Zimbabwe, to the same plight as virtually all Africa. In the next 12 months both countries will have to import more than half their national maize requirements.

The cost will be astronomical, for South Africa probably in the region of £500m and for Zimbabwe about £90m. The Harare economy is in dramatic decline and it is widely believed that payment has only been made possible by the Government's seizure last month of external assets worth an estimated £120m.

The huge maize imports will impose a heavy strain on the South African Transport Services (Sats) the largest and only fully operational network in the region. In addition to its own requirements, South Africa will be handling Zimbabwe's maize imports, about 600,000 tons and about 300,000 tons for Zambia and 400,000 tons destined for Botswana, Lesotho and Zaire.

These statistics illustrate graphically the continuing dependence of the black states on Pretoria and the vulnerability of Zimbabwe, which has been left odd-man out in South Africa's recent regional peace initiative.

Zimbabwe is scheduled to receive 50,000 tons monthly until the next harvest. A spokesman for Sats has given an assurance that the extra load can be handled. But there is no margin for error. A gremlin or two and people will start to go hungry in what is supposed to be an election year.

presented with a more inviting opportunity", he says. "My feeling is, though, that they are now quite content to wait for us to come to them."

Zimbabwe has resisted all South African inducements for government-to-government talks, most notably 16 months ago, when Pretoria was offering assistance to overcome a fuel crisis which brought the country to a halt.

The Harare government is apparently deeply concerned by its new sense of isolation, but as recently as April 16, Mr Mugabe said he saw no need for an accord similar to the one between South Africa and Mozambique.

Poor maize yields in South Africa and Zimbabwe, primarily due to the drought, have been compounded by low prices. The Republic is expected to produce 4.1 million tons, compared with an estimated national consumption of 6.9 million tons and a normal output of about 10 million tons.

Dr Pieter Gouw, manager of the national maize producers' organization, speculated recently that southern Africa might be undergoing a climatic shift which could make the region a permanent net food importer, like other parts of Africa.

Similar fears have been voiced in Zimbabwe, which is expected to produce perhaps 500,000 tons this year, against consumption of 1.2 million tons and the record 1981 harvest of 2.4 million tons.

A top white businessman in Harare recalls that South Africa applied pressure through transport before in an attempt to make Mr Robert Mugabe's government a more pliant neighbour, "if they wanted to do it again they could not be

## Games may mar FBI's big success

From Christopher Thomas Washington

Terrorism in the United States, always a small-scale phenomenon, has plunged to a remarkably low level. There were 31 acts of domestic terrorism in 1983, a figure so small that Mr William Webster, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, actually described himself this week as "happy".

The secret lies in the FBI's policy of arrest-without-evidence, a policy that has embroiled the agency in controversy but nevertheless led to a striking drop of 40 per cent in domestic acts of terrorism between 1982 and 1983.

The event that might spoil the statistic is the Olympic Games this summer in Los Angeles. Mr Webster said that the Democratic and Republican national conventions this summer also offer rich pickings for bombers and assassins - as always.

According to Mr Webster, terrorist acts have declined this year because of arrests of Puerto Rican and Armenian terrorists. Puerto Ricans, certainly, seem to provide the principal nest of terrorists in the United States.

Security at the Olympics will be very heavy. Already, half the \$50m (£33m) appropriated by Congress for security has been allocated, most of it for 84 helicopters and crews. That is nearly three times the number of helicopters requested six weeks ago by Olympic security planners. In comparison, the entire Los Angeles police department has 15 helicopters.

## Bangladesh tries to bar Indian fence with force

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Relations between India and Bangladesh have reached an all-time low after India's insistence on building a barbed-wire fence around the former province of East Bengal. At least two people have died as a result of cross-border firing, one on each side.

India wants to deter Bangladeshis from fleeing the grinding poverty of their country and seeking better conditions across the border.

In particular the state of Assam had made a big issue of the presence of Bengalis illegally settling there, and interethnic strife between the Assamese, the local tribal people and Bengali immigrants led to a conflagration there 14 months ago.

But Bangladesh resents being fenced in. The martial law regime of President Ershad has made many protests to India about the fencing scheme, saying that it is in breach of treaties between the two countries which bar the erection of defensive constructions.

The local commander of the Bangladesh Rifles has told his opposite number in the Indian Border Security Force that he has orders to prevent the construction of the fence by firing if necessary.

Indian replies have stated that the works could by no means be considered as defensive constructions and that it is free to build what it likes on its own soil. At first, the plan was for a huge wall, topped with barbed-wire and perhaps broken glass to stop the Bengalis shining over it. The cost, however, proved too great, so

say nothing of the comparisons that would have been made with the Berlin Wall.

Last week, units of the Bangladesh Rifles opened fire on a working party that was digging post holes, and after the diggers withdrew they entered Indian territory to fill the holes in again. The Indians returned fire and believe that they killed one Riflemen.

This week, another party has been shot at, and accompanying men of the Border Security Force returned the Bangladeshi fire. A sub-inspector of the paramilitary Border Security Force and one other man were wounded in the attack. The second man has since died.

After last week's incident the Bangladesh Ambassador in Delhi was called to the Ministry of External Affairs to be given a formal protest. The ministry spokesman said after the most recent incidents that India "profoundly regrets" them and hopes the Bangladeshi Government "will cease these provocations".

In return, the Bangladesh Government also expressed its regret at the Border Security Force's "highly provocative" actions. The spokesman in Dhaka said that the putting up of the fence was "escalating tension and giving rise to a grave threat to peace and security in the area."

In a curious tit-for-tat move the Bangladesh Government has announced that it too is going to erect watchtowers along the border "for increased surveillance."

## US troops accused of Manila link

Manila (AP) - A priest, interviewed in a Roman Catholic Church newspaper published yesterday, claims that American soldiers are involved in the fight against Philippine rebels.

A US embassy spokesman denied the charge. The priest, Mr Comrade Balweg, said he had reliable reports of American soldiers accompanying Filipino troops in four provinces north of Manila.

The interview was published by a group of Catholic bishops and businessmen. Mr Balweg, aged 39, has been hunted by the authorities in the mountainous regions of northern Luzon since he joined the communist rebels in 1979. He is accused of masterminding or participating in a series of raids in the area in which several people have been killed.

## Howe asks Japan for more effort

From Richard Hanson Tokyo

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, in Tokyo for ministerial talks, yesterday emphasized the importance of strengthening a "partnership" between Japan and Britain while urging further efforts to correct trade imbalances and internationalize the use of the yen.

Sir Geoffrey met with Mr Shintaro Abe, the Japanese Foreign Minister, for a second round of discussions centred on economic and trade matters, in which he cautiously supported a call by Japan and others for a new round of trade liberalization negotiations.

Mr Abe said that a round of trade negotiations should be "promoted actively" to roll back protectionism.

## Sweden's Queen draws the Socialists' ire

From Christopher Mosey Stockholm

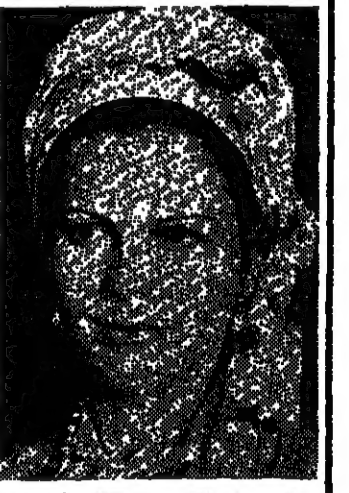
Queen Silvia of Sweden has clashed with the country's powerful Socialist movement led by Mr Olof Palme, the Prime Minister, over its plans to cut private medical care.

The Queen, aged 40 and a mother of three, has actively engaged herself in the campaign to prevent the Socialist-controlled Stockholm County Council from closing three private nursing schools. She has had a letter supporting the schools published in two mass circulation papers.

Another member of the royal family, Princess Christina, sister of King Carl Gustaf XVI is already involved in the fight as honorary chairman of the Sofia Home, a Stockholm private hospital.

The present row erupted after the county council said it wanted to close the Sofia Home's nursing school, which is financed from public funds. The council also intends to stop funding two other private nursing schools.

The county council's squeeze on private medical care is backed by the Government which is worried about private



Queen Silvia: Clash with Prime Minister

sector invades into public health care.

The most visible sign of this is a private clinic in Stockholm doing record business by cutting the waiting time experienced at emergency departments of state-run hospitals.

Mrs Gammel Farns a Socialist county councillor said: "The royal family has no right to involve itself in deciding which schools should be kept open in Stockholm."

## Danes braced for another austerity dose

From Christopher Follett Copenhagen

Mr Poul Schluter, Denmark's Conservative Prime Minister, has presented another powerful dose of austerity measures aimed at stabilizing the country's economic recovery.

The package, presented to Parliament yesterday and agreed in camera over Easter between the 18-month-old, four-party centre-rightist minority coalition and the small Radical-Liberal party.

It calls for immediate 1,500m Danish kroner (£108m) cuts in public sector spending in 1984 combined with steep rises in already high taxes on cigarettes and ale.

The package also sets guidelines for Denmark's 1985 state budget. This will be done by imposing 4,000m kroner cut-backs. Suspension of automatic index-linked pay rises will be extended to 1987.

## Einstein, Euclid and Newton documents sold

New York (Reuters) - A draft of Albert Einstein's Unified Field Theory sold for \$38,000 (£25,000) at an auction of rare science books and manuscripts that also included works by Newton and Euclid.

The autographed six-page 1929 manuscript, one of five major papers on the unified field theory, went to a Massachusetts dealer who bid by telephone in America's most important auction of its kind for at least seven years.

Altogether, the sale netted \$407,660.

The handwritten Einstein was one of 450 rare documents sold at Sotheby's auction house from a private collection of scientific, mathematical and engineering books belonging to John Stanzin, a consulting engineer from Cleveland, Ohio.

A first edition copy of Isaac Newton's *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy* sold for \$22,000 to an unidentified private collector.



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There are over 50,000 people, young and old, who've had to learn about Multiple Sclerosis. A lucky few bear no outward signs of handicap. The less fortunate can suffer paralysis, impaired sight and incontinence.

Each year, research brings a cure ever closer. But at a cost. In 1983 alone, we spent £1 million on more than 30 research projects.

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With it we can learn much faster about the effectiveness of possible diets, drugs, or treatments like the hyperbaric oxygen chamber.

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Send it by cheque, giro, postal order, money order, cash or credit card.

And with your help, your children may never learn about this cruel disease.

To: The Multiple Sclerosis Society, FREEPOST, 286 Munster Road, Fulham, London SW6 6BR. (Tel: 01-351 4022. Giro Bank No. 5149355).

☐ I enclose a donation to the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

☐ Please send me the Society's leaflet on making covenants or bequests.

☐ Please debit my Access Card/Barclaycard (delete as applicable the sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_ Card No. \_\_\_\_\_)

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Donations accepted on request. Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## Tomorrow

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- Rugby: Cup final day for clubs in England and Wales

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# Chernenko steers clear of timetable for total communist victory

From Richard Owen, Moscow

## USSR spurns treaty draft

President Chernenko has asserted that the capitalist system will eventually succumb to communism, but has avoided giving a definite date either for the world communist victory or for the achievement of the abundant society in the Soviet Union.

In an address to party ideologists working on the new Communist Party programme, Mr Chernenko said it would be "superficial" to abandon the "superficial concept" of laying down a timetable for transition to the "supreme phase of communism". This had mistakenly been attempted during a "certain period" of Soviet history, a reference to the party programme adopted under Khrushchev in 1961.

The Khrushchev programme, which remains in force to this day, not only claimed that the "bright future" belonged to communism, but also that the Soviet Union would overtake the United States - "the strongest and richest capitalist country" - by the end of the 1960s. By 1970 the standard of living would reach the point where all Russians would live "in easy circumstances".

Brezhnev, who overruled the churlish and imaginative Khrushchev in 1964, was obliged to postpone the bright future, but did not revise the party programme. Theoretically by 1980 the "material and technical basis of communism" should have been created, giving rise to "an abundance of material and cultural benefits for the whole population", although four years ago no one was unkind or unwise enough to remind the Soviet

The verification clauses of the American draft treaty outlawing chemical weapons were totally unacceptable, the chief Soviet delegate told the 40-nation UN disarmament conference in Geneva yesterday (Alan McGregor writes).

Mr Viktor Issraelyan said the American draft, tabled last week by Vice President Bush, was not only unacceptable but would set back negotiations for a ban on chemical weapons many years.

The proposal for an on-the-spot verification to prevent cheating was an extremist demand, he said, going beyond the needs of moving compliance with the accord.

leader of this forecast... or of the prediction that Russia would be the sole motor of technological progress.

The "majestic edifice of communism" was to be completed during the "subsequent period".

Mr Chernenko remarked that - as the 1961 programme suggests - communism would eventually defeat capitalism by peaceful rather than violent competition. But he added that although capitalism was unquestionably doomed it was not beaten yet and possessed "quite substantial and far from exhausted reserves".

The new party programme is to be adopted at the next party congress in 1986, and Mr

Chernenko called for "large-scale discussion in the party beforehand".

His remarks, reported on the front page of *Pravda*, emphasized that the "perfection of developed socialism" - the present Soviet stage - and the transition to communism would be gradual. There was a need to remove the "discrepancies" between the 1961 programme and "the real course of social development".

Strictly speaking the next congress would be adopting a new edition of the old programme rather than an entirely new programme, the Soviet leader observed, since "the strategic tasks related to the building of communism have not yet been accomplished". The authors should aim at a "bold and expressive" picture of future world trends "without attempting to envision details".

There were reports under Andropov that the next party congress would be brought forward to next year so that wide-ranging personnel and policy changes could be approved. Observers noted yesterday that Mr Chernenko appeared to have no drastic revisions in mind. On the other hand, the meeting was also attended by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the 53-year-old Politburo member and Andropov protégé regarded as Mr Chernenko's heir.

At 72, Mr Chernenko is no more likely than Khrushchev or Brezhnev to witness the advent of full communism, defined in 1961 as a system in which the Soviet Union enjoys higher wages, better housing and fuller shops than the West.



Saying it with flowers: Mrs Nancy Reagan and President Li Xiaomian are greeted with flowers upon their arrival in Peking. They are welcomed by President Li Xiaomian

## Hopes grow for freeing 16 Britons

By Henry Stanhope

Diplomatic Correspondent

Hopes for the early release of 16 British hostages who were seized by Unita rebel forces in Angola two months ago, rose yesterday after two days of talks at the Foreign Office.

Mr Tito Chingunji, representing Dr Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader, has told officials that the arrival of a British emissary at the organization's base in southern Angola "will lead to the immediate release" of the Britons, who were captured during a raid on the diamond mines at Kafunza where they were working.

The Foreign Office added last night that the name of an emissary had been proposed to Mr Chingunji and clearance for him to make the journey south was now being awaited.

News of the development, which is regarded as a significant step, came after an announcement that Unita had started to release Portuguese, Filipino and other prisoners who were seized at the same time but not the 16 Britons. Dr Savimbi had always indicated that they would be treated separately.

Together with the 90 other hostages including 12 women, five of them missionaries, and 19 children, the British were forced to trek 800 miles south to Dr Savimbi's headquarters. ● JOHANNESBURG: A group of 89 hostages were released yesterday by Unita and flown to Johannesburg in a South African transport plane leased by the Red Cross (Michael Horsby writes).

They consisted of 66 Portuguese and 15 Filipino workers and technicians and their families and eight missionaries of various nationalities, three of them women.

## US accused of spy flights in Nicaragua

Tegucigalpa (Reuters) - The US Air Force has begun flying daily intelligence missions deep into Nicaragua, exposing aircraft and their American pilots to frequent hostile fire, US military sources here said.

They said flights - in violation of Nicaraguan air space - began last October and were stepped up significantly two months ago. They originated from Fort Howard air force base in Panama, Palmarola air force base in Honduras and a Marine air base at Cherry Point, North Carolina.

The disclosure comes against a background of growing concern over the extent of US support for some 10,000 Nicaraguan rebels fighting to topple Nicaragua's left-wing government.

The spokesman for joint US-Honduran military exercises being conducted here, Colonel James Strachan, said an intelligence battalion was deployed in Honduras on condition that it flew only intelligence gathering missions over El Salvador.

The sources said aircraft used in operations included OV-10 and RV-1 reconnaissance aircraft and AC-130 attack planes armed with machine guns and rapid-firing cannon. No AC-130s are assigned to Honduras. The

sources said the planes came from Fort Howard air base in Panama.

US sources, who declined to be identified, said four or five US aircraft flew into Nicaragua every night from Honduras, switching off electronic signals that identify and aircraft's nationality and altitude.

One source said the planes went 100 miles into Nicaraguan territory and sometimes flew too low for radar to detect them. The AC-130s left Palmarola at least three times a week, the sources said. Palmarola is the headquarters for US military manoeuvres in Honduras.

The 224th military intelligence battalion, based temporarily at Palmarola, has said it conducted regular reconnaissance flights over El Salvador with "twin engine Mohawk" aircraft, using the information to provide tactical support to the Salvadoran Army in its fight against leftist guerrillas.

The Reagan Administration was harshly criticized by Democratic and Republican Senators over reports that the Central Intelligence Agency had played an active role in the mining of Nicaraguan ports which damaged at least 12 vessels.

## 'Iron Bella' condemned

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

Iron Bella, who presided over an empire of corruption in Black Sea restaurants, has been sentenced to death according to the Moscow daily *Sovetskaya Rossiya*.

Bella Borodkina, known as "Iron Bella" for her dictatorial powers and flamboyant life style, was one of the victims of the anti-corruption drive launched by the late President Andropov.

She is believed to be the first woman to be sentenced to death for bribery and embezzlement since the campaign began.

The paper said Bella Borodkina, who was in charge of restaurants in the Black Sea town of Gelendzhik, had amassed an illegal fortune of 560,000 rubles over a period of 10 years. Local officials and even police chiefs were said to be involved in her network.

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## Greeks call off flame lighting ceremony

From Mario Modiano

Athens

The traditional ceremonies for the lighting of the Olympic flame for the 23rd Olympiad in Los Angeles, have been called off by the Greek Olympic Committee. The committee blames lack of cooperation from the Greek state and sports authorities, for taking this unprecedented step.

The flame was to have been lit in ancient Olympia on May 3 from the rays of the sun converging on a concave mirror. It would then be relayed to Athens by 800 runners each carrying the torch one kilometre.

Here the flame would have been handed to the International Olympic Committee for relay to New York by wire impulse through satellite.

Mr Nastos Tzartanos, the Greek committee's secretary-general, after yesterday's meeting which decided to cancel these arrangements said: "Now it is up to the International Olympic Committee to get the flame one way or another."

The Greek Olympic Committee's move followed a decision by the Federation of Greek Amateur Athletic Clubs on Wednesday to bar its members from participating in the torch relay from Olympia.

The federation protested against the 'commercialisation' of the Olympic flame by the Los Angeles organizing committee.

A commercial sponsorship programme at the rate of 3,000 dollars per kilometre of relay in the United States has been suspended following protests from Greece, but many Greeks feel the whole affair has perverted the Olympic spirit.

Mr Tzartanos said the Greek secretariat-general for sports had instructed provincial governors to discourage the participation of school-children in the torch relay from Olympia to Athens, while the councils of several towns listed on the itinerary decided to boycott the occasion.

The Mayor of Olympia, the modern village near the original site of the Olympiads, has threatened to organize demonstrations to stop the flame.

## Plea for life of Belgian



Amnesty International has made a last moment appeal to President Chernenko to spare the life of a 69-year-old Belgian who has been condemned to death by a Soviet court (Richard Dowden writes).

Mr Yermak Lukianov, (above) a Soviet-born Belgian citizen, was convicted of crimes against humanity on July 8 last year after being confined in psychiatric hospitals for 15 years.

He was arrested in 1968 while visiting the Soviet Union. Neither the Belgian Government nor Mr Lukianov's family were informed of his trial and his daughter was allowed to visit him once at the end of last year.

Last September he lost an appeal in the Supreme Court and only an act of clemency from the President can save him.

According to Tass, Mr Lukianov was an officer in the Red Army who was captured by the Nazis and agreed to change sides.

## France to cut down on pre-trial imprisonment

From Our Correspondent, Paris

M. Robert Badinter, the French Minister of Justice, wants to introduce a habeas corpus system, to curb the powers of examining magistrates to commit large numbers of people to prison to await trial. The period before trial for those committed would also be reduced.

Just over half the French prison population of 41,600 is made up of people held "provisionally" before trial. They can be held for months, if not years.

The Badinter proposal has been adopted by the Cabinet. He hopes it will be approved by the National Assembly at the end of June and so make what he called "an historic break" with past practices. The minister wants to end the power of examining magistrates to send people to jail.

Under the Bill there would be no commitment without a hearing involving the examining magistrate, a representative of the public prosecutor's office and the accused and his lawyer. Even people without lawyers

## 17 die as train and bus collide in Oporto

Lisbon - Seventeen people were killed and 37 seriously injured when a train struck a crowded commuter bus on the outskirts of Oporto yesterday (Martha de la Cal writes).

The bus was filled with workers on their way to Valongo, an industrial suburb of the city, and was hit as it drove over a level crossing.

## More deaths in Punjab violence

Delhi (Reuters) - At least three people were killed and several wounded yesterday in fresh outbreaks of violence in Punjab.

Two people died when men on the roof of a Sikh shrine in the town of Moga fired at members of the Paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force. Gunmen also killed a mob in a village in Faridkot district.

Leading article, page 13

## Neo-Nazi chief hangs himself

Nivelles (Reuters) - A Belgian neo-Nazi group's founder, facing charges of stealing secret Nato documents and forming a private militia, hanged himself, the public prosecutor said yesterday.

Paul Dittus, aged 34, self-styled leader of the *Wolfsaad* New Post neo-Nazi group, killed himself on Tuesday at his girlfriend's home.

## Death sentence

Houston (AFP) - A former prostitute convicted of murdering a man with an axe, has been condemned to death here, becoming the first woman to be sent to death row in Texas. Karla Faye Tucker, aged 24, was convicted last week.

## Island bombs

Point-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe (Reuters) - Fourteen explosions rocked four of the main towns on this French Caribbean island yesterday. Police blamed nationalist movements. No one was hurt.

## Record catch

Vienna (Reuters) - Bulgarian fishermen caught a giant 363 lb Beluga sturgeon from the Danube at Vidin, north-west Bulgaria. The official news agency said the catch was a record.

## Dissident jailed

East Berlin (Reuters) - Theologian, Herr Wolf Quaschnig, has been jailed for 14 months for passing damaging information abroad, the official East German news agency announced.

## Hongkong talks

Peking (AP) - The Governor of Hongkong, Sir Edward Youde, has arrived in Peking for further talks on the future of the colony.

## Space walkers

Moscow (AP) - Two Soviet cosmonauts spent five hours yesterday outside the orbiting Salyut 7 space lab, servicing the propulsion unit, Tass said.

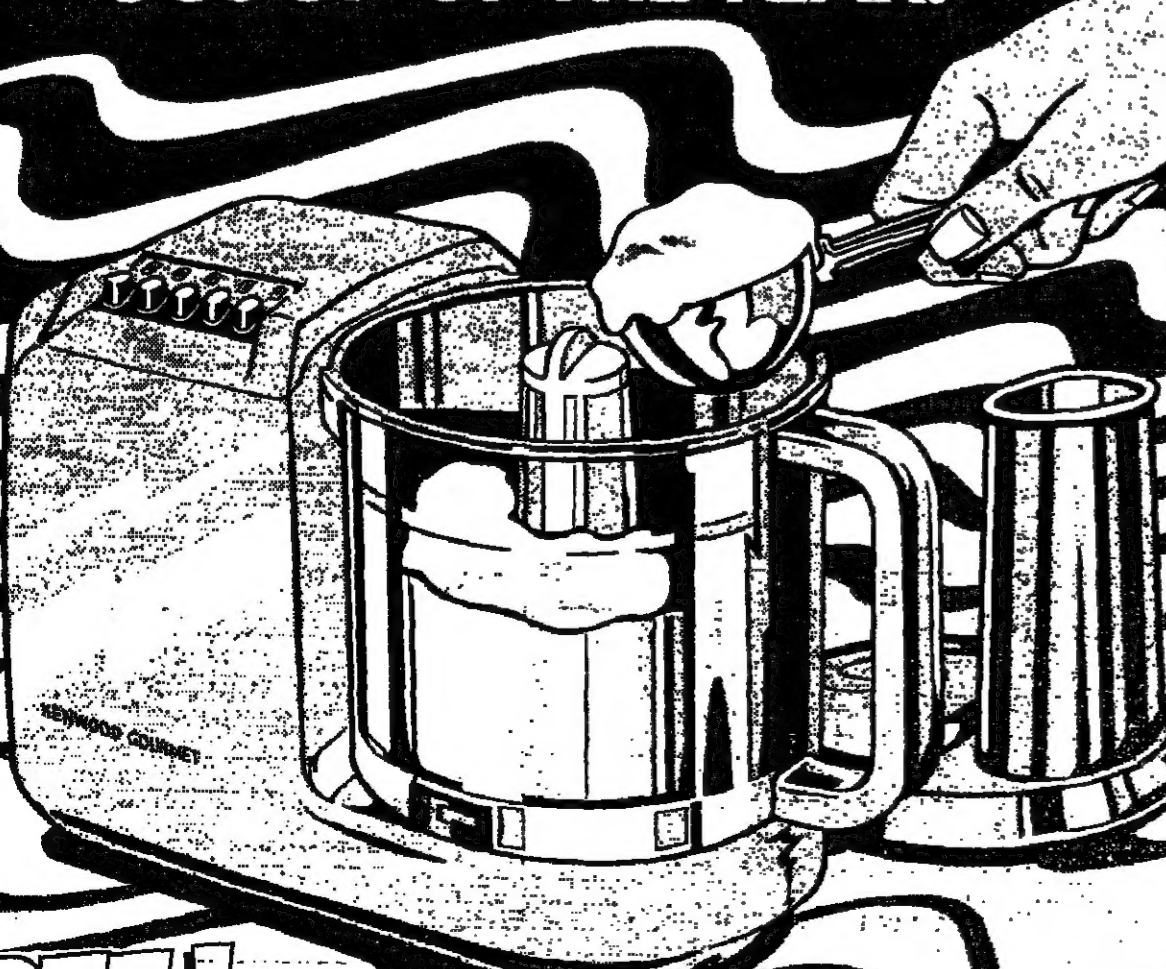
## Morocco poll

Rabat - The first general elections in Morocco since 1977 will be held on September 14.

## Outsize twins

Belgrade (AFP) - A Yugoslav woman, aged 28, has given birth to outsize twins boys weighing 9lbs 4oz and 9lbs.

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## THE ARTS

## Cinema

## Dramatic humanist parable

White Dog (18)

Electric Screen;  
Cinecenta Pantion Street

Daniel Takes a Train (15)

Gate Notting Hill

Jozef/Szare

Channel 4 (tomorrow)

The Heartbreakers (15)

ICA; Classic Oxford Street

Big Meat Eater (15)

Screen-on-the-Green  
Islington

An Italian Straw Hat

Dominion (tomorrow)

Samuel Fuller's *White Dog* is a humanist parable, exemplary in its simplicity. The remote origin is a *Life* Magazine story by Roman Gary about a dog trained by racists to attack and kill black men. Subsequently Gary used the title and the metaphor for a biography of his wife Jean Seberg, whom he saw as having been exploited by the Black Power movement in the late Sixties.

Arthur Penn and Roman Polanski were at various times considered as directors for the project. It proves in the outcome particularly suited to the direct and unequivocal style of the 72-year-old Fuller, schooled through experience as an 11-year-old newsreel director ("I learnt early that it is not the headline that counts but how hard you shout it"), tabloid reporter and pulp novelist. Fuller's most famous dictum is his list of the essential elements of a film: Love, Hate, Action, Death. This story has them all.

The big, beautiful white German Shepherd found, straying in the Hollywood Hills and adopted by an aspiring young actress (Kristy McNichol) seems at first to be a jekyll and Hyde - the gentle, happy protective creature comes home from nocturnal rambles, dripping with blood. In time

it appears that the beast in its innocence has been conditioned by some modern Frankenstein to be the agent of man's evil. The central drama becomes the attempt of a black animal trainer (Paul Winfield) to retrain the *White Dog*.

Fuller sticks close to his parable, telling his story in bold, dramatic images - the arena cage, in which the patient physical confrontations of man and beast take place; the eyes of the two antagonists, seen in repeated close-ups, watchful, calculating. Not the least achievement is the fabrication of the dog's performance (actually a collaboration of several look-alike animals). Without any hint of anthropomorphism, Fuller makes him the true centre of the drama, dutiful, exploited, bewildered. The moral is most forcefully brought home by the eventual appearance of the original trainer of the *White Dog*. This nice old gentleman and good citizen has two pretty little granddaughters by his side. The assumption is that they, too, are already in training to become human *White Dogs*.

Much the same moral, about the nature of human conditioning, is at the centre of Pál Sándor's *Daniel Takes a Train*. In a brief climactic scene, more horrific because it is so unexpected, two one-time secret policemen reveal, violently, that the old instincts and the old techniques are ineradicable. The film is the Hungarian cinema's most direct attempt to date to deal with the trauma of 1956, the counter-revolution, the Soviet intervention, the 160,000 emigrations to the West.

Sándor has built a gripping dramatic thriller against this background: the story of a Jewish boy who joins a West-bound train out of rather vague motives of adventure, comradeship with an old schoolmate now among the insurgents and romantic love for a girlfriend who has gone ahead with her parents. Pál Sándor is already known here for his memorable *Improperly Dressed*. In collaboration with Elemér Ragályi, one of the world's most gifted and resourceful cameramen, he reveals a special genius for recreating the atmosphere and sentiments of a recent past. The crowded train, and the crumbling border-town hotel where the refugees wait for the transports to struggle them into Austria, are a ship of fools whose fears and hopes, fears and tragedies we are invited to share.

These are people who live much closer to history than we do, at the meeting point of West and East survivors, more or less, from the nightmare Stalin years when communists devoured communists. Sándor brilliantly shows the way that the dramas of history are reduced, finally, to personal injuries, bitterness, resentments and revenge. The young hero watches it all, and at the end turns back, to face the future, whatever it might be.

There is further commentary on the problems of living this close to history in two notable documentaries by Jerzy Kazubowski, a recent graduate of the National Film School, which can be seen tomorrow on Channel 4. Kazubowski was born in England to a family of Polish refugees who arrived here after the war. *Jozef and Szare* provide a dual portrait of his grandfather, who is now 90.

In the first old Jozef Nowak, no longer fit to care for himself, is seen being moved from his little terrace house in London. He talks about the history he has seen: army service in two world wars, and against the Soviets in 1920. The memories are stirring; the irony is that this stage old Jozef no longer clearly remembers whose side he fought on, or what the fighting was all about. In *Szare*, surprisingly, the old man has returned to Poland to live in the village where he was born. The new experience is disappointing: the world of his youth has gone. The merit of these two documentaries is their affection, understanding, self-effacement and avoidance of indulgence either to maker or subject.

The *Heartbreakers*, the first feature by a young German director, Peter F. Bringmann, is an affectionate memory of the late Sixties, when young German musicians were trying to emulate the achievement of British pop performers. It tells of a group of youngsters trying to establish a group under the leadership of a neurotic youth (Sascha Disselkamp) who combines in his looks aspects of Mick Jagger and David Bowie, and turns out not to live up to the tough image he gives himself. The music is well dubbed; and Disselkamp and Mary Kettidou, as a young singer from the other side of the tracks, are interesting figures.

*Big Meat Eater* is a musical science-fiction horror-comedy from Vancouver, which makes a virtue of its amateurism and cut-price special



Training the White Dog: Paul Winfield at bay

effects (the alien spaceship was imported from a London toyshop at a cost of 99 cents). Directed by the English-born Chris Windsor, it is cheerfully inept, disarming, occasionally sharp in its picture of small-town attitudes; and always a pleasure when the mountainous black singer Big Miller is on screen, in the role of the community's resident rapper.

Tomorrow provides one of the very rare opportunities to see a silent film with live orchestral accompaniment. René Clair's caustic adaptation of the

Labiche farce *An Italian Straw Hat* has a specially composed score by Benedict Mason, which draws considerably upon liberty and his contemporary and atmospheric stage balladably comic sound effects. The programme also includes *Clara's avant-garde short Enl'acte*, originally an episode in the ballet *Relache*, and performed with Erik Satie's original score. The conductor is Alan Pearson of the Northern Sinfonia; and the occasion should not be missed.

David Robinson

## Theatre

Animal Farm

Cottesloe

Immediately on its publication in the 1940s, Orwell's fable went straight into the cultural bloodstream and stayed there as a source of proverbial quotation and a knock-down argument against revolutionary aspiration. It has been recycled for radio and animated film, and last week they were doing it in the hall of Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet. I would guess that most people seeing this new version will be as familiar with the book as with Beatrix Potter's stories, and just as keen to be told the indestructible old tale again.

They should, nevertheless, be warned that Peter Hall's production follows *Strider* as the Cottesloe's second full-blown horse opera; and that it is primarily a stylistic exercise that appears only by accident during "Orwell year".

Like the book, the stage version adopts a double focus of simplicity and sophistication, with the difference that its sophistication is more musical than political. It opens with the sight of a small boy taking down a copy of *Animal Farm* and setting down to read it. By his side is a toy farmyard which reappears in magnified replica in Jennifer Carey's largely portable set.

But any impression of innocence is at once contradicted by the arrival of Farmer Jones staggering back from the pub and launching into a luridly operatic declaration of villainy. Songs feature in Orwell's text; and the production pays its full-throated respects to "Beasts of England" and the revisionist anthem to the all-powerful porker, Napoleon. But that is only the starting point of Richard Peaselee and his librettist, Adrian Mitchell.

Mr Peaselee's ominous vamps and broken marches assist in darkening the atmosphere; and his disrupted hymns for the animal congregation led by Paul Stewart's clerical raven, and the sardonic echoes of Paddy's "Jerusalem" in the profane finale, intensify the spoken action. But much of the material adds nothing to character or content, and only has the effect of breaking up the narrative.

In keeping with its operatic structure, the dramatic pace is generally measured, and almost pedantically articulated. The battles with the humans are played as if by numbers, with pauses between each advance and retreat. One down-stage move by the animals is enough to drive Jones off his territory. Everything stops for the sight of Squealer making off with the first bucket of milk.

You can certainly follow the

story, but you are left in doubt as to whether Hall settled on this pedagogic style for its own sake or was obliged to adopt it out of consideration for a singing cast armed with front-leg appendages that prohibit all rapid movement.

The main dramatic interest centres on the careers of the Trotskyite Snowball, the Stalinist Napoleon, and the all-purpose propagandist Squealer: all marvelously played. Greg Hicks's Snowball departs furthest from animal stereotype by presenting a heroically idealistic fighting pig. David Ryall hits the stereotype dead centre as an unassuming secretive hypocrite. Barrie Rutter's Napoleon is an original creation of definitive power: a white-faced pseudo-innocent, talking in every event with unblinking eyes, announcing each curtailment of liberty as if giving his subjects a birthday present, and then lifting his voice in the appalling howl that summons his guard dogs to tear into the enemy.

Hall's adaptation usefully expands the reading lesson from narrative to enactment. And his production seizes the climaxes with true ferocity; particularly the red-lit apparition of the execution shed during the show trials, and the final alliance between men and pigs, at which moment all the masks come off.

Irving Wardle

Television  
Peculiar people

What we eat, do, wear and believe in, he thinks most peculiar.

His visitor - pretty smart to have got here in the first place, one would have thought - was allowed little credit for intelligence. For instance, as the camera ranged over a woman undressing, the narrator observed, as we arrived at the feet, "How do we balance on just two of these?" Well, I thought, that alien must know a thing or two about locomotion, and had probably worked it out.

Then there was the food. None of us likes to be caught stuffing away in close-up. What we put away tends to look a bit

odd, too, and nothing reinforces this shame about our dietary habits more than a few lingering shots in an abattoir. Quite suddenly, one regrets the necessity of eating at all.

Shoe shops took on a ludicrous aspect. "O Alien," said the monotone, which would later observe that Guildford had fifty such shrines, "the cult of adornment of our lower limbs becomes something which would be very difficult to explain to you."

Explanations, in the main, were difficult, not to say pretentious and portentous, and uncompassionate. Mr Gladwell's attitudes about patriotism, religion, acquisitiveness and authority, and quite exuding humour. "I am finding it more and more difficult to be objective," said narrator to unseen and undoubtedly bug-eyed alien as we quit the abattoir. Quite, I thought, the pity is you tried too hard.

Dennis Hackett

## Concert

Messiaen's evocation of the blackbird, for flute and piano, was rather sensitively played by Philip Davies and Julian Jacobs (the former Julian Dawson Lyell). Miss Davies's phrases were convincingly bird-like in their coverings without any compromising of the flute's conventional tone. Perhaps Messiaen has become a little easier to play than he was when this music was new; he is certainly much easier to listen to.

But Ravel's Introduction and Allegro for harp, flute, clarinet and string quartet still provides richer fare, and this is evidently an idiom in which the Capri-

corn players feel at ease. Theirs was in fact a distinguished performance, with the harpist, Frances Kelly, in the lead with the refinement of her nuances. Every part, though, was exquisitely shaped and balanced with the rest.

After this kind of sophistication, Schubert's "Trout" Quintet, with piano and double bass, inevitably sounded rather homely, above all the variation movement. Yet it received an enthusiastic and indeed idiomatic interpretation, the ensemble being almost as well integrated here as in the Ravel Introduction and Allegro.

Max Harrison

Capricorn  
Wigmore Hall

In the second of the series of concerts celebrating their tenth anniversary the Capricorn Ensemble were to have played a piece specially commissioned from Michael Levinas. But this was not ready in time, so we had Messiaen's *Le Merle noir* instead. First, however, came Mozart's Horn Quintet, which employs one violin and two violas, instead of the other way about.

The resulting dark-toned string ensemble matches the French horn well, and the latter's part in the quick movements was deftly turned by Jonathan Williams. Less distinguished were the strings, their contributions not being shaped quite decisively enough. This was especially apparent in the slow movement, where the horn soars so beautifully, its line strikingly flexible considering the limitations of the (valveless) instrument in Mozart's time.

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## SPECTRUM

## Swimming in a sea of troubles

There are signs that the North Atlantic salmon, harassed as never before, may be changing its age-old habits. John Young reports

For the title of the noblest mammal, in creation there would be several contenders. So far as fish are concerned, there are no arguments; the crown, indisputably belongs to the most mysterious and coveted of species, the Atlantic salmon.

As a sporting adversary it has no peer, as a gastronomic delicacy few equals. But, more important than that, it is a natural phenomenon whose amazing instincts capture our imagination. Even those of us who lack the opportunity or the inclination to hunt it, and the means to eat it more than occasionally, acknowledge that its extinction would be an ecological disaster.

And yet we are told that it is in mortal danger. Experts differ on whether disaster is imminent and perhaps inevitable, or whether all that is needed is some common sense applied to

inches long and with bright silver scales. (The cycle may vary slightly according to latitude, but that is the general pattern.)

Where they go then is still something of a mystery. Some are known to head for feeding grounds off Greenland, but the story that the whole enigma was solved by chance by an American submarine commander who looked through his periscope and saw the sea dense with salmon packed gill to gill, is not given much credence. Moreover, as Gerry Hadoke, director of the Atlantic Salmon Trust points out, not all salmon spend two or more winters at sea. Some return to spawn after one winter, and thus would not have time to reach Greenland and return. These less adventurous fish are stripped of the title of salmon and rechristened grilse, but why some do one thing and some another we have yet to discover.

Their voyages, whether to distant Greenland, or perhaps to the more accessible Faroes, are fraught with further dangers. Sea birds prey upon them from the air, at least until they reach deep waters: water borne predators include larger fish and seals - the annual seal cull off the coast of Labrador, which arouses such strong emotions, does at least contribute to salmon conservation, particularly in Canadian rivers.

proper conservation measures. But all of them deplore complacency. The Salmon and Trout Association says it is gravely concerned about the low level of this year's spring run of salmon into British rivers, particularly in Scotland, where there are inadequate stocks of the large, mature fish, which mainly return to spawn in the early months of the year, to permit proper conservation of the wild species in their native rivers.

Conversely, there has been a significant rise in late summer and autumn runs, from mid-August onwards, which comprise mainly young salmon. The association believes that the harassed North Atlantic salmon, may be changing its habits.

Of its very nature salmon live dangerously. They are really safe only during the six weeks or so after they emerge from their eggs, when they remain under the gravel beds of the rivers where they were spawned. Once the small fry take to the water, they become immediate prey for other fish and for birds such as kingfishers and herons, and fewer than two per cent are thought to survive this stage.

Those that do mature into parr, spending the first year in their native rivers preparing for the great journey to the sea. In the autumn of their second year the migration begins and by the time they reach the estuaries the following spring, they have graduated into smolts, about six

And then of course there is man. During the summer months the fishermen of Greenland and the Faroes are out with their nets. On the high seas of the North Atlantic, boats from Denmark and the Soviet Union in particular, indiscriminately catch what they can. Tens of thousands of young smolts probably end up in fishmeal factories, being turned into food for pigs and chickens.

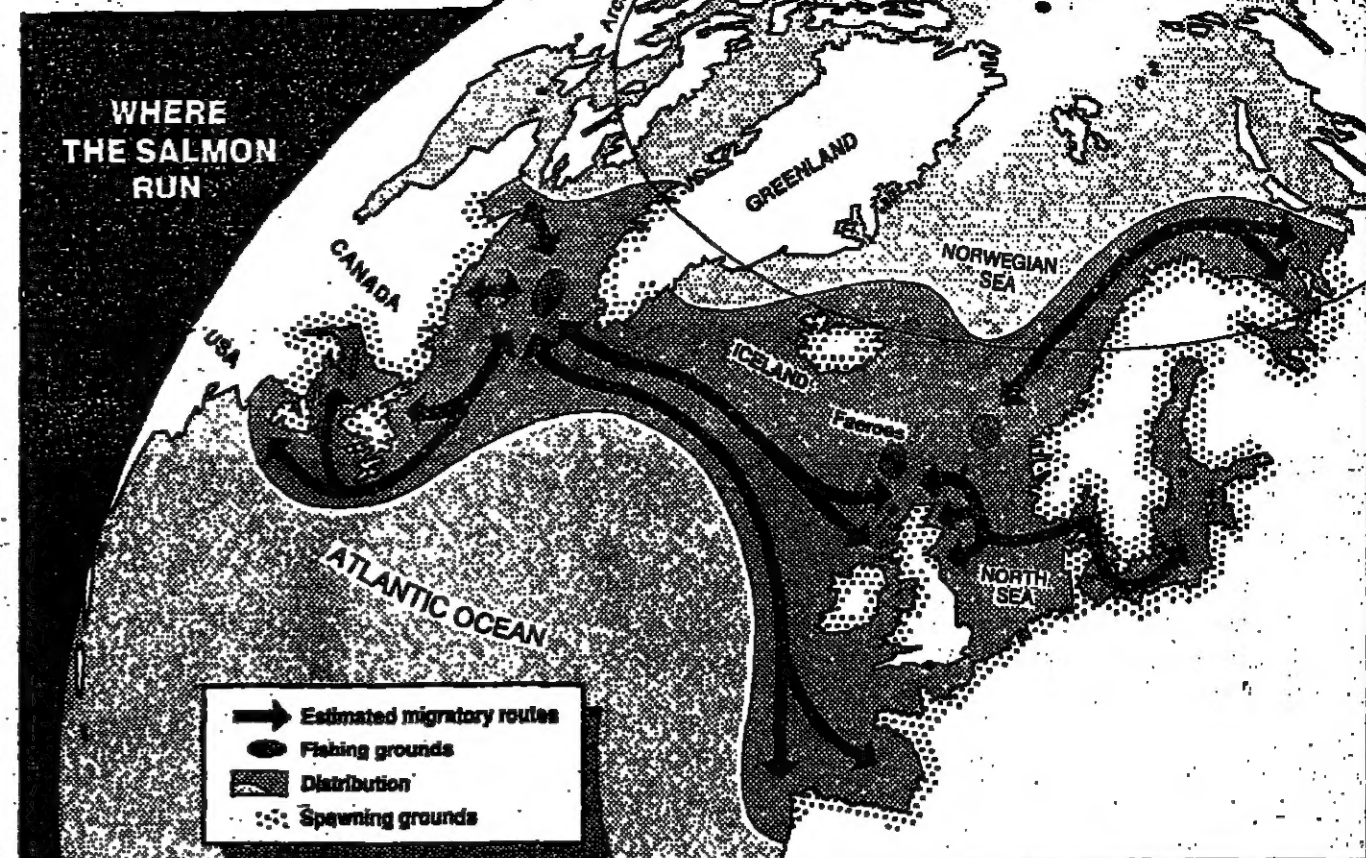
When the survivors finally approach the end of their homeward journey, more human hunters await for them, some with drift nets off the coast, others with rod and line on expensive stretches of river bank.

About four fifths of all the salmon caught are netted. Drift netting has been particularly criticised, partly because it can devastate river runs, but also because it employs a rather nasty, elastic monofilament which is invisible to the fish and which may injure them as they swim into it or subsequently try to escape. Most drift netting is illegal it has been banned in Scotland for 20 years. Norway has undertaken to ban it by the end of the decade, and there are pressures for stronger action in both Northern Ireland and the Republic.

But probably the biggest run of returning salmon in Europe is off the east coast of England. There is a theory that the

salmon, the overwhelming majority of which are bound for Scottish rivers?

After all this, it seems a little surprising that there are any fish left for the rods, let alone to survive all the way upriver to spawn. Another curiosity about the salmon is that it does not feed in rivers and yet, out of cussedness or curiosity, is still tempted to grasp at a lure. For his part, man is as rapacious on the riverbank as anywhere else. There are many sportsmen who deplore overfishing, but there



John Grimwade/Woodhouse Alwyn Mughall

are stories of others filling the boots of their cars with fish and racing south to sell them, probably earning enough to pay for their next season's sport.

Some experts believe that the answer lies in the sort of tagging system that operates in Canada. When an angler buys a licence, he is issued with a limited number of plastic tags. Each fish must be tagged as soon as it is killed, and there are severe penalties, including imprisonment, for being found with an untagged fish.

Sadly, however, such controls would do little or nothing to prevent poaching. There was a time when poaching was tolerated, perhaps covertly admired, as no more than a harmless piece of anarchy, the lads of the village cocking a snook at the laird. But nowadays it is conducted by organised gangs, ready to threaten violence to any keeper who crosses their path.

Of all the threats to the salmon, the most topical is so-called acid rain, the result, it is claimed, of excessive emissions of sulphur and nitrogen into the atmosphere. The result has been a rise in the acidity levels of rivers and lakes to the point where they can no longer sustain aquatic life. The water may look clear and feel soft but it is deadly to insects and hence to the fish which feed on them. The problem has been most acutely felt in Norway and Sweden, which have accused Britain of "exporting" pollution

on the prevailing westerly winds. But parts of south-west Scotland are also suffering, and it is not clear, despite the claims of the ecology lobby, that power station chimneys and vehicle exhausts are solely to blame. Large scale conifer planting, for instance, increases soil acidity, as does the virtual abandonment of what used to be the common practice of spreading lime on fields, particularly in the uplands.

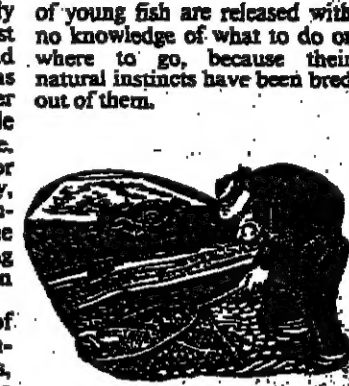
Despite the millions of gallons of chemicals that farmers spray on their crops, surprisingly little appears to be known about their effect on river quality, although some concern has been expressed about the leaching of nitrates. Fortunately most salmon rivers in Britain do not run through arable landscapes, although significantly Ireland, which is predominantly an agricultural country with very little heavy industry, has experienced serious pollution of lakes and rivers.

Complacency is represented by the fate of the wild salmon: it can always be replaced by those reared in "farms" or "ranches". Apart from an instinctive feeling that nothing reared artificially ever tastes as good as the wild species (what bird, animal or fish ever did?), Mr Hadoke has serious reservations about fish farming. The selection process, under which only the very best specimens are retained, means that thousands

of young fish are released with no knowledge of what to do or where to go, because their natural instincts have been bred out of them.

The argument that large-scale production will bring down prices and make poaching uneconomical can, he says, be countered by the possibility that poachers will simply take more wild salmon in order to maintain their incomes. He is also deeply worried about genetic experiments aimed at producing a fish which will mature as early as possible.

Whatever its commercial attractions, such a creature will not in his view have the right to call itself a salmon. Nor will it leap waterfalls, glide through gull, stock pools or rise to the fly. Angling, estimated to account for up to a quarter of Scotland's tourist income, and those who go to fish the famous waters spend ten times as much as the average visitor. For that reason alone, the king of fish should be worth saving.



Julia Miles

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| 2 Greens (6)            | 6 S Nigerian people (3) | 10 Unpleasant (4)      | 14 To each (6)         | 19 Egyptian king (7)     | 20 Alcohol (5)     |
| 3 Place of learning (7) | 7 Clergyman (6)         | 11 Unpleasant (4)      | 15 Signal firework (6) | 21 Wash lightly (5)      | 22 Pigeon call (3) |
| 4 Interestingly odd (7) | 8 Spree (8)             | 12 Witty talk (3)      | 16 Pigeon call (3)     | 23 Loose jacket (3)      |                    |
| 5 Clean away (3,2)      | 9 Aware of (4)          | 13 To each (6)         | 17 Introduction (7)    |                          |                    |
| 6 Fleat in rows (5)     | 10 Bearlike (6)         | 14 To each (6)         |                        |                          |                    |
| 7 Overall chief (7)     | 11 Unhappy (3)          | 15 Signal firework (6) |                        |                          |                    |
|                         | 12 Milk curd food (6)   | 16 Pigeon call (3)     |                        |                          |                    |
|                         | 13 Ineffective man (6)  | 17 Introduction (7)    |                        |                          |                    |

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## FRIDAY PAGE

Alan Franks on the problems facing diplomats' families living abroad

## Wives with get up and go

Not all diplomats and their families leave their postings quite as dramatically as Mr Oliver Miles, the British Ambassador to Libya, and his wife and children, although the prospect of a sudden move is part and parcel of the job. It is something which service wives accept with a combination of stoicism and forethought.

Women like Isobel Hickson, wife of our First Secretary in Argentina at the time of the Falklands invasion, or Sally Weston, married to our ambassador in Peking, in 1968, know only too well what it is like to up sticks at a moment's notice when a sudden crisis throws their domestic arrangements awry. So, too, does Lady Parsons, the wife of the British Ambassador in Tehran for the six years before the overthrow of the Shah.

Yet Lady Parsons, far from grumbling about her experiences, recalls them as "terribly interesting - people always concentrate on this question of the uncertainty of it all, but personally I did find it all rather fun".

Perhaps positive thinking of this sort is the only way in which diplomats' wives can compensate for the rigours of trying to make a home on shifting sands. They are rigours most graphically described by Mary Gore-Booth, wife of Britain's head of chancery at the United Nations, on BBC Radio's profile of the Foreign Office, *With Respect, Ambassador*.

"In the last six years I think we've been in four different countries, and I'm used to packing things up in a couple of weeks and moving off and going from desert to down-coats and just adapting", she said. I think that most people expect an awful lot from diplomatic wives. I think they expect them to be an extension of - I don't

quite know how to put it - a sort of Buckingham Palace. They expect them to be perfect, diplomatic, well dressed, always available, always smiling, always tactful, remembering everybody's name, never having any problems of their own and always being a hostess, the door open."

Never having any problems of their own? That is a tall order under the circumstances. For a start, they are living in someone else's house, and even though it may be a palatial abode, it is none the less a tied cottage.

Then there is the question of the children's schooling, and - a matter which many service wives believe is under-regarded - the sense of displacement which can be experienced at the end of a tour of duty. This is seen by some as a kind of perpetual foreignness, whereby you are an alien not only when playing temporary hostess in an overseas embassy, but also when coming home to discover that in the three or five years which have elapsed, your local community has been managing quite well without you.

Education is perhaps the thorniest problem. In the smaller postings there is often no adequate schooling, particularly at secondary level; couples have little choice but to opt, sometimes against their better judgment, for boarding school back home, so that at least the children have the benefit of being plugged into a permanent system.

Finally, there are the headaches of the house in Britain. If empty, is it being squatted? If rented, would the tenants leave if you suddenly had to return at short notice?

At the time of the Falklands crisis, Michael Hickson, First Secretary in Buenos Aires, and his family had five



Isobel Hickson, Lady Parsons and Lady Stewart: a life of uncertainty and stoicism to be faced by positive thought.

days in which to leave the country. They had no choice but to leave behind the car, washing machine and other heavy items.

Mrs Hickson said: "The worst thing was that the two younger children, aged 13 and 11, were at school in Buenos Aires, and I would say that it most certainly disrupted their education. This was particularly true in maths, where they have a completely different system of instruction from our own. There was also the fact, in Argentina, that they have a long holiday from December to March, and so of course they came back to England just after three months without school."

One problem common to all families is the nagging uncertainty as to where the next posting will be; it is seldom possible to give more than six months notice.

The diplomat's wife who wants to work while abroad may be in for a disappointment. Even the 100 hours of language tuition which they can have before they leave will probably not be enough for professional purposes; some countries will not even issue work permits to wives. In response to a circular issued by the Diplomatic Service Wives Association, 75 per cent of FO wives

expressed the wish to take up some sort of employment while overseas, but only 50 per cent manage to do so.

The reality is that there is plenty of work to do, but that most of it revolves around the need to entertain and to be an adequate social adjunct to the husband. In the course of writing his book *The Diplomats*, Geoffrey Moorhouse established that in a single year, the ambassador to Paris had overnight guests on 250 occasions, hosted meals for a total of 2,000 people and had given tea and drinks to a further 1,800.

The DSWA, which has a membership of about 4,000, was formed as a sort of welfare agency for the women, addressing itself to problems such as housing, payment for school fees and provision of air fares for visits home.

Yet despite the formalized position of the wife as shadow to the husband, life is not without its attractions.

"Perhaps our generation enjoyed it all rather more than the young", says Lady Parsons, who before Iran had been with Sir Anthony in Baghdad, Ankara, Amman, Cairo, Khartoum and Bahrain. "It is quite possible to spend your whole diplomatic life without incident, but this, fortunately, has not been my experience. I have seen some amazing places which I

would otherwise have had no chance of visiting.

"The great thing is that you are able to do everything together. You see, if you want to lead the life of a bank clerk's wife, you know that it will be secure and uneventful and that in a few years you'll have a little money, and so on. The thing I enjoyed about it all was living in a state of expectancy."

Another veteran service wife, Lady Stewart, whose husband Sir Michael Stewart was ambassador to Greece during the tense years between 1967 and 1971, views her various postings to China, Turkey, Singapore and the US as highly educational. "It is very good for Britain, as a rather self-satisfied and insular country, to realize that even though its history is marvellous, it is but a small part of the world. My experience has had the effect of putting it into context."

Diplomats are very exceptional people, you know. They have such broad horizons.

Then she adds, as a rather sobering afterthought: "Thinking of China, though, I must say I was grateful not to be there when the Red Guards burst into the embassy. I'm not particularly keen on the chanting of terrorist mobs."

## 'There was some street shooting'

Tripoli

On Wednesday morning Julia Miles was still battling with boxes, bags and suitcases as she packed for her husband and four children, and disposed of all the paraphernalia of a British ambassador's residence. Also she had to cope with four lively young children and a steady stream of assorted journalists and television crews who wanted in for interviews and refreshments at all hours.

Mrs Miles is coping wonderfully - as all Foreign Office wives must. She is energetic, intelligent and outgoing, and frank enough to state the bald facts: that with changing times, those "paragons" which Foreign Office wives must now be are probably shattering too much of the burden of keeping the British flag flying on limited resources and in ever more insecure conditions.

Before becoming housewife

and mum, she worked as a child-care officer in Tower Hamlets in London, "doing what I'd always wanted". She was about to be promoted and she and her husband Oliver had been only three months in their new house in Wimbledon when they were posted to Cyprus.

It was in Cyprus that the two elder Miles boys, Tom, 12, and 11-year-old Joe, were born. It was also to be Julia Miles' first taste of political upheaval and risky conditions, which more and more embassy wives have had to learn to live with. In the wake of the Eoka II movement, according to Mrs Miles, there was "some street shooting and police stations were blown up".

Cyprus was also her initiation to the hard grind of being an embassy wife. "I remember being very pregnant, with another baby on my hip, stirring soup for about 60 people, I'd carried in the chairs myself, and

laid the table for dinner."

After a two-year break in London, the family moved to Saudi Arabia, where Oliver Miles was appointed ambassador in 1975. It was not an easy posting for a woman. Stuck in an embassy compound (women are forbidden to drive in Saudi Arabia) Julia Miles "made a pitch to get to know Arab women". This unusual move turned out to be a great success, with up to 80 women turning up for her Tuesday afternoon lectures on entertainment.

Her third son, Hugh, now aged seven, was born in Jiddah. The fourth child, Lucy, four, was born in Athens. The four Miles children are as cheerful and noisy as any youngsters on holiday. The only difference is that they seemed incapable of getting to sleep. And being such well-seasoned travellers they are that little bit more confident and street-wise than most

children of their age.

Mrs Miles feels that, like their mothers, embassy children are put under extra strain. Long stints in far-off boarding schools, followed by almost surreal holidays with their parents laying on treats "to try to compensate".

Julia Miles and the children were alone in the house for 25 hours while her husband and 23 other staff, including two children, were besieged in the embassy building last week. Though the phone was cut off for a day, and there was a crowd outside blocking the way in or out, she says she was not really alarmed. "I was worried, but I was sure Oliver was all right. I was very glad the children were with me because they'd have been far more frightened if they'd heard about it at home."

Tana de Zulueta



Julia Miles preparing for a hurried exit from Tripoli.

## Reviving first aid



IF you were walking down a street and someone suddenly collapsed in front of you, would you know what to do? The chances are your answer is "No". But if you were in the US or Canada, any of the Scandinavian countries, or Australia, and you collapsed, it is highly likely that somebody would be on the scene to resuscitate you.

The impetus for teaching resuscitation techniques to the public as well as to health care professionals came in the US 10 years ago. It was recognized then that, since between 60 and 70 per cent of sudden deaths caused by heart failure happen before the patient reaches hospital, everyone in the community should be able to help in the first four critical minutes after collapse.

A group of doctors in Britain have established the Resuscitation Council to encourage more people to learn the skills of resuscitation and to standardize training. Last month they published a training manual called *Resuscitation for the Citizen* as part of the campaign. Contact a local voluntary aid society like St John Ambulance or the Red Cross for details of where you can be taught the techniques. *Resuscitation for the Citizen* is available from Department of Anaesthetics, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, London W12 0HS.

### Ins and outs

Gone are the days when it was fashionable to whip out a child's tonsils because if they were inflamed they were thought to be a hotbed for secondary infections. Tonsillectomy, nevertheless, remains a controversial operation. Professor Donald Harrison, of the

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

*Institute of Laryngology and Otology*, says that although more is known about throat infections, which children would necessarily benefit from the operation is open to doubt. And for ethical reasons, it is impossible to pick one random group of children, remove their tonsils, and compare their progress with another group who have had no operation.

Despite these difficulties there has been a large reduction in the number of tonsillectomies carried out in the last four or five years.

One reason is the recognition that only 50 per cent of throat infections are caused by bacteria, and the other half, caused by viruses, cannot be prevented by tonsillectomy. Also, tonsils which appear very inflamed are often not as damaged as expected when they are examined after removal.

In addition, according to Professor Harrison, GPs nowadays rarely see children with true acute tonsillitis: children

who regularly have sore throats tend to be dosed up with antibiotics.

Yet there are cases when tonsillectomy is recommended. Problems often begin when a child first goes to school and comes across a whole host of new infections. Although parents complain their child is often laid low by sore throats, many exaggerate the discomfort. Certainly their child may have a sore throat but it does not prevent him from being up and about.

### Face-saver

Motorcyclists are less likely to be seriously hurt in road accidents if they wear full-face crash helmets rather than the open face variety, according to doctors in Newcastle.

In a recent letter to the *British Medical Journal* they report that motorcyclists wear-

ing open face helmets are 10 times more likely to sustain a facial injury and five times more likely to suffer a head or neck injury than motorcyclists wearing full-face helmets.

A survey over 18 months in a casualty department showed that 13 of 38 motorcyclists who were wearing an open face helmet when they were involved in an accident had head or neck injuries. This compared with only 11 of 156 motorcyclists wearing full-face versions.

### Artists at risk

Artists in the United States - professional and amateur - have been warned that their work could damage their health. A nationwide campaign to alert them to the hazards of the materials they use has been launched.

In 1980 the School of Art Institute in Chicago asked Nancy Seeger, a research consultant, to write a series of short brochures on the subject. The

task has taken four years and she has produced five books: an introduction and four guides on how to use materials safely in printmaking, painting, photography and ceramics. A sixth booklet, on metalwork, is about to be published.

The author says that artists rarely realize the exact composition of their materials and even less what effect the chemicals they contain could have on their health.

Volatile organic solvents used in brush and roller cleaners, for example, can cause headaches, nausea, dizziness and fainting and even chronic chest complaints. Photographers frequently contract dermatitis from chemicals in their darkroom solutions.

The simplest safety measure she recommends, in her series *Alternatives for Artists - Guides* on the safe use of materials, is to ensure that the workroom is well ventilated with a through draught.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

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# THE TIMES DIARY

## A prophecy too late

Novelist Jeffrey Archer wishes the Libyan siege had taken place six weeks later. In his book *First Among Equals*, now being printed by Hodders for publication in July, he uncannily presents an international crisis between Colonel Gaddafi and Mrs Thatcher. In a "barbaric act," a group of 100 Libyan guerrillas hijack a Royal Navy destroyer. The opposition demands action. "How long will he (the Defence Secretary) allow negotiations to continue when it is well known throughout the diplomatic world that Gaddafi is a master of procrastination?"

Kinnock then asks the Foreign Secretary when Britain will break off diplomatic relations. Yet Archer seems to be just one step ahead. Michael Heseltine has been replaced by the fictional Simon Kerslake; the Foreign Secretary is a Charles Seymour and Leon Brittan becomes Chancellor of the Exchequer. On the other hand, David Owen survives as SDP leader. No doubt Archer's agent would have been distressed if he had not. She is Owen's wife, Deborah.

## Crown court

Identities of two eminent QCs who are to star under assumed names in a dramatised murder trial on Channel 4 later this year, were disclosed to me yesterday. The sillas, whose identities are secret because of the Bar's ban on advertising, are two of Britain's leading criminal QCs - John Mathew, who recently defended Sarah Tisdall, and who represented a defendant in the Jeremy Thorpe case, and Richard Du Cann, among whose most celebrated cases was that of Lady Chatterley's lover. Presiding over the TV case, *The Trial of Richard III*, who is accused of murdering his two nephews - will be Lord Elwyn-Jones, the former Lord Chancellor, appearing under his own name. He is not "for hire," and thus cannot be accused of advertising.

## Time to buy

"If Maxwell won't, I will," says *Time Out* publisher Tony Elliott, who tells me of his plans to form a consortium to buy the *Observer*. Although he confesses that *Time Out's* profits would amount only to two-and-a-half per cent of the purchase price, he does have a formidable industrial relations record. After a strike in 1981, his staff went off to form City Limits.

## Cheeky

Mrs Thatcher has no doubt been crossed off Colonel Gaddafi's Christmas card list. Pity - he sent her such a heartfelt message on his greetings card last year. Inside it were quotes from Matthew 5 (39) - "If someone slaps you on the right cheek come and offer him your left." Matthew 5 (43) - "You have learned that they were told 'Love your neighbour, hate your enemy'." Matthew 5 (44) - "But what I tell you is this: love your enemies and pray for your persecutors."

## BARRY PANTONI



I don't get it - they're paying us in £50 notes

## Ritual cleansing

The congregation of St Stephen's Church, Lympne, Kent, obviously take the scriptures literally: after they had sung Psalm 51, which includes the verse, "Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow," the collection bag was found to contain a "3p" voucher for Parazone bleach.

## Traveller's plug

The final report of the New Ireland Forum is due out next week and David Gilliland, the Government's chief information officer at the Northern Ireland Office in Belfast, just happens to be flying off to America this weekend - two months. The report will, of course, create a stir in America, and Ireland's many friends in Congress are likely to exert greater pressure on Britain to take an initiative over Northern Ireland. Gilliland tells me his trip is pure coincidence; cynics in Dublin say they aren't fooled.

## Take your pick

"So much for rape and incest in Stoke-on-Trent on Tuesday's documentary. Not much of that in Wednesday's *Gardener's Question Time*..." The strained links that have made Margaret Howard's *Pick of the Week* a mischievous cult among fellow Radio 4 employees are to be immortalised in an anthology, edited by Hutchinson's managing director Roger Houghton. "We are looking for items like the prayer Patrick Lichfield read on *My Favourite Music*," says Houghton, who inspired the collection.

PHS

# A nuclear summit for Europe

by David Steel

The Nato alliance is celebrating its 35th anniversary at a time of increasing internal pressures. Recent US-European relations have been permeated by mutual distrust and suspicion. There seems to be a dramatic decline in British public support for US policies.

Many Americans are asking whether the risk to their nation is worth the continuing defence of an ungrateful Europe. Many Europeans wonder whether their security lies in being tied to a US administration which too often seems aggressive, insensitive to human rights abuses, and lacking in self-control.

I believe there is scope for turning European fears into a more positive recognition of a common security role and for the need to promote détente. At the heart of the issue is the question of European defence cooperation.

Although security issues must be placed on the European agenda we must not overlook the distance between the aspirations of the European defence dialogue and strategic realities. The firing of cruise and Pershing missiles depends entirely on the US president - we still do not have the dual key that the Americans have been proposing for 25 years. The US remains the only western power with second strike nuclear capability on land, sea and in the air. And the US defines the doctrine and the consequences of Nato strategy.

But the expansion of the EEC offers a challenge and an opportunity. An enlarged Community will mean that 11 of Nato's 16 states will be political partners in the EEC as well as military allies in Nato. That Community will have a population of more than 300 million, will be technologically advanced, relatively prosperous and with

developing common institutions. Europe already makes a major contribution to its own defence - providing more than 90 per cent of the ground forces, 80 per cent of the main battle tanks and two-thirds of the major ships in the European operational area. It is time that the logic of a single European voice on defence matters was properly developed.

It is through Europe that a fresh initiative to break the nuclear arms race could come. The aim should be a nuclear summit, at which both Britain and France would be represented. And its task would be the following:

Firstly, to negotiate a freeze on all future missile manufacture and deployment. Such a move must be mutual and verifiable, and would be a preliminary stabilizing act. As such it would meet the deep concern felt by many that the "machines of war" had developed a momentum of their own, beyond the grasp of man. Such a freeze would include scrapping Trident, halting cruise and Pershing deployment and stopping the further build-up of Soviet missiles.

Secondly, such a summit must pave the way for a resumption of negotiations in Geneva so that genuine reductions in weaponry can be achieved. It has never made sense to keep negotiations at intermediate and strategic missiles in self-contained compartments. The case for merging INF and Start, and including British and French nuclear forces, has become overwhelming.

Thirdly, Nato should indicate its desire to

move away from its damaging reliance on "flexible response" - the notion that military resistance to a Soviet conventional attack might escalate through the use of tactical, and finally strategic nuclear weapons.

With some 6,000 or so short-range battlefield nuclear weapons sprinkled across central Europe, it is more likely that a Third World War would start by the firing of a nuclear artillery shell than by the launching of an SS-20, a Minuteman or a Trident missile. That disturbing prospect underlies the need to raise the nuclear threshold.

I believe there should be a "no first use" declaration, coupled with a battlefield nuclear weapon-free zone in central Europe. Naturally, the abandonment of "flexible response" has immediate consequences for the conventional deterrent. General Rogers himself has pointed to the steps the member states of Nato would have to take to maintain sufficient armed forces capable of resisting a Soviet armoured thrust. The importance of the MBFR talks, negotiating conventional force reductions, should therefore be upgraded, with a clear linkage through to the combined INF/Start talks at Geneva.

I believe that these are three practical, immediate and attainable measures open to the nuclear powers. But the essential first step - the precondition of a nuclear summit - must be the revival of détente. The spiral of hatred and fear which fuels the arms race has to be broken if we are to hope for survival.

This article is adapted from a speech which Mr Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, delivered recently to the Royal Institute for International Affairs.

## Roger Boyes on Poland's unlikely millionaire society



How the others live: a Warsaw cafe, where cognac costs a month's wages, and an elegant dacha

## The champagne and banana set

Warsaw At the time of night when the cleaners start work on the street debris (yellowed newspapers, broken bottles - rarely food or cigarette ends), and the homework bound buses flash past and drunks sprawl into doorways, at about that time the rich come out to play. The Porches and Mercedes line up outside the Architects' Club in Fokalska Street and out spill the fast set of the communist world, velvet jacketed, bejewelled and bejewelled. In Poland, the season has begun.

It was ushered in by a big ball in the club. Gucci leather beat a tattoo on the floor, cognac flowed like vodka and the wealth (with its natural accessories, talent and beauty) was paraded as thoroughly and tactfully as missiles on Red Square. Wowo Bielicki, a greying playboy and organizer of the Miss Poland contest, launched the event by whirling a girl around the floor.

These are the new rich. Some flourish despite, and some because of, the Polish crisis. They are despised by the hardline Marxists who believe that they are mocking the working class with their unproductive wealth. They are distrusted by many ordinary people who see them as a symbol of an unjust system.

The intelligentsia is impoverished - a university lecturer would have to

pay an entire month's salary for one bottle of cognac; the workers are feeling the squeeze, everybody is debilitated. But the Warsaw chic is more glamorous even than its Budapest counterpart, dances on to the music of champagne corks.

The rich are not like us. For one thing they eat bananas, available only at two private markets in Warsaw at a cost of £3 each. They go on package tours to Turkey, to China (cost - close to a million zlotys, or seven years' average wage), to Vietnam, where the enterprising sell cigarettes and buy snakeskin to make into handbags. They buy their leather trousers and Hermes scarves from the Rambert market, near the Soviet garrison, at Paris prices. Or they buy from private fashion collections.

They use private helicopter taxis to take them from Cracow to their ski resorts - Zakopane, Bukowina or Szyszak near the Czechoslovak border. There they rent chalets or, if there is some unforeseen blunder, a hotel suite, pay bribes of up to a thousand zlotys to jump the queue for the ski lift and hire restaurants for the night in lieu of a good night-dub. In truth, Zakopane is less of a ski resort, more of a cat walk for those who want to see and be seen.

The truly skilled of the "banana youth" (as even the elderly rich are known) promenade down the main street of this once-charming mountain village challenging passers-by to take in their Swiss skis, their Polaroid sunglasses, their French zip-up suit and Italian boots. Even

the tan comes from Helena Rubinstein. After a while it is time to rest in preparation for the party (with a small p) ahead.

Lenin, with his new economic policy (NEP), saw the need for private entrepreneurs to speed up economic recovery and thus, as a temporary measure, to build up the inner strength of a communist state. In Poland, the banana youth are a form of Nep-men but with the important difference that all industry is in state or cooperative hands. That means the entrepreneurs are confined to fringe industries such as fashion, to the service sector, especially hotels and restaurants, to private trading in scarce goods such as cars and to exploiting various, more profitable branches of private agriculture. More often than not, these businesses have to break the law, either because the law is simply not geared to the needs of private enterprise or because it is impossible to obtain raw materials or planning permission in any other way. The entrepreneur is therefore vulnerable: it is possible to become a zloty (even a dollar) millionaire legally in the communist system, but it is extremely difficult.

The short cut is through dollars, selling them, buying them. The black market rate for a dollar is 600 zlotys compared to 100 at the official exchange points. Two thousand dollars thus buys over a million zlotys, enough to live comfortably for two years without working. The scramble is thus on for dollars; all foreign trips must be used

not for relaxation but for profit.

The zloty millions are a fool's gold. As long as they stay in Poland, the millionaires are as rich as Croesus. Huge dachas are constructed with loving care. Inside they bristle with video machines and kitchen mixers and hi-fi equipment. A man from the village does the gardening, his wife cooks, her brother looks after the swimming pool, the grandmother is paid to queue for the meat and the grandson cleans both the Volvo and the Polski Fiat. As soon as the millionaire leaves Poland, the money trickles through his fingers.

Hence the Polish season. There is no Ascot, no grouse slaughtering on the moors. But there is a rather energetic rollercoaster year from Zakopane in winter to the spring balls in the capital and Cracow and summer on the Mazurian lakes or Baltic coast. The pace is exhausting, the zloty cost huge, and it is difficult to escape the conclusion that the rich are an embarrassment.

But there is a vague sense that although the rich may not be bringing Poland any great benefit, they are an inevitable part of a modern state, even a nominally Marxist one like Poland. And crisis or Croesus, there is a bit of profit for most people. This year, for example, the Warsaw chicieria will summer in the small resort of Deby, much to the relief of the local forster's son who is accustomed to making a few zlotys by guiding school chums through the woods to overlook the site of a beach where the metropolitan rich and their attendant accessaries sunbathe without clothes. Perhaps Konstantin Chernenko or his hard-line allies in the Polish party would argue that this is all rather corrupt - but neither he nor his Polish colleagues have ever experienced a Polish banana-and-caviar party.

ahead among people with an annual household income of less than \$20,000 but far behind among those with higher incomes. People who fall in the \$20,000 to \$30,000 range are seen by some analysts as a key group, sizable and volatile enough to swing an election.

"The overriding issue is leadership," says Republican pollster Robert Teeter. "In 1980 the country rejected one kind of leadership and Walter Mondale is still very much part of it. Ronald Reagan offered a new direction. The economy, war and peace shape the substantive debate under the overall issue of leadership."

Certainly, the polls reflect strong support for Mr Reagan's "peace through strength" policies, even though there is unease about his adventures in Central America. He is unlikely to be foolish enough to make a bold step in the region before the election. His biggest asset is a winning personality and a talent for exploiting television. He has a good campaign team - and, the best advantage of all, he is the incumbent president. He can also point to lower inflation and claim with some justification that taxes would be higher under the Democrats.

Thanks to Mr Hart, the machine that was Mr Mondale now has a human dimension. Mr Hart has done for him what his years as Mr Carter's right-hand man failed to do - he has helped the dry, dogged man from Minnesota develop something of a public personality. But it is still light years away from that of the wily old actor from California.

Christopher Thomas



Just the ticket? Hart has forced Mondale to soften his stiff image



Hart has been the making of Walter Mondale.

If Mr Mondale wins the nomination, what are his chances of beating Mr Reagan? The President remains nationally popular despite the unpopularity of Lebanon, Central America, and the deficit. What matters more than specifics is that Mr Reagan is perceived as positive, committed, and a leader. Mr Mondale bears the burden of his association with the dithering Carter administration.

If Mr Reagan and Mr Mondale went to the country now Mr Reagan would almost certainly win, judging by the tide of opinion expressed in a variety of opinion polls across the country in recent months.

In January, before Mr Hart entered the scene, a *New York Times-CBS News* survey gave Mr

Reagan a 3 per cent national lead over Mr Mondale. The President led in the Midwest and West, trailed slightly in the East and by a bit more in the South. Mr Mondale had a big lead in the large cities. Mr Reagan had a similar lead in rural areas. Suburbs and small towns split closely.

A month later, with the Hart phenomenon only just stirring, a *Washington Post-ABC News* poll showed the President narrowly ahead of Mr Mondale in every age group. The President lost among women by 49 to 46 per cent but won among men by 54 to 41 per cent. People who see themselves as middle class supported Mr Reagan by 58 to 39 per cent. Working-class voters favoured Mr Mondale by 50 to 43 per cent.

Mr Mondale was substantially

Mervyn Stockwood

# Too many bishops spoil the cloth

It was May 1, 1959, and I was at the breakfast table in Lambeth Palace. I had had a bad night. I had been ill and could not sleep. I expect it was nerves as I was to be consecrated a bishop in the morning by Archbishop Fisher in Southwark Cathedral. As I could not eat anything, Mrs Fisher, with characteristic kindness, said, "Mervyn, you do look unwell. I wonder what I can do for you. It's such a long service and Geoff won't shorten it". And Geoff would not!

Then Mrs Fisher remembered that some years ago they had been given a present of brandy and it had not been opened. She filled a small bottle and I put it in my pocket. "Just in case", she said. Fortunately, I survived the service, but when I reached the retrochoir two hours later, I was feeling faint. I put the bottle to my lips, choked, gasped with horror and spat. Mrs Fisher had put the brandy into a TCP bottle.

A quarter of a century ago I was 45, the youngest member of the Bench and the only one not in gaiters. As there was no retirement age, some of my colleagues like the previous Bishop of Southwark, Cyril Garbett, continued in office until they were 80 or over.

I received no instruction, nor was I in any way apprenticed. Not only was I unaware of the administrative demands that play a major part in a bishop's life, but no provision was made for me to be taught to confirm, ordain, or to put persons into livings. In short, I was episcopally ignorant.

In some ways, it was a symbol of an attitude towards what a bishop was expected to be, an attitude which is in marked contrast to what is expected today. Once the powers-that-be had decided that a man had the necessary qualifications for the job, he was thrown in at the deep end and expected to swim. If he did not know whether to breaststroke, crawl, over-arm or dive, it was up to him to seek advice. The emphasis was upon personal initiative and responsibility. The bishops may have worn gaiters, but they were the leather gaiters of a robust hunting field, not the woollen gaiters of an infant in a pram pushed by a nanny supplied by the General Synod.

I am not suggesting the situation was ideal. Far from it, but I doubt whether there has been much improvement. And my questioning seems to be shared by several contributors to the correspondence columns of *The Times* in recent weeks on the appointment of bishops. I think there may be two reasons for this. First, at the beginning of the century when the practising Anglican population of this country was considerably bigger than it is today, and when we had twice as many parochial clergymen, there were fewer bishops. So why is it that as the number of practising Anglicans and clergy have considerably decreased, we require more and more bishops?

Part of the answer is that the diocesan bishops are so burdened with committee work that they are compelled to ask for deputies or suffragans to do the work for which they themselves were ordained.

Shortly before I resigned, two diocesan bishops told me they had spent more than 80 days in the

previous year in London attending committees and synodical functions. When one adds the days that are rightly spent on holiday and personal affairs, one wonders how many in the year are left for the work which Scripture envisages of one who is a spiritual overseer of his flock.

Second, the Church of England must decide whether it is an episcopal or a congregational church. If it wants leadership - prophetic, academic or pastoral - it will attract one type of candidate. If it wants chairmen of committees who will prove their skills by contributing to the creation of paper mountains, it will attract another type.

But the change of emphasis in the nature of the episcopal office is small compared with other changes that have occurred during the last 25 years so far as the church is concerned.

A recent book *Jesus - The Evidence*, to be distinguished from a television series under a similar heading, suggests that what is believed by enquiring Christians in many respects different from what is assumed in the pulpit. In my later years at Southwark, I was chairman of an informal group of university scholars and bishops. It was known as Caps and Mitres. The purpose of the group was to consider the increasing gap between the theological scholarship and ecclesiastical dogma, between the Jesus of history - in so far as He can ever be discovered - and the Christ of popular piety.

I had been deeply concerned since the days when I had been vicar of the University Church at Cambridge. I knew that the church had not sufficiently grasped the intellectual and spiritual problems of the modern world. My long experience in a working-class parish had led me, for different reasons, to a similar conclusion.

In 1959 the eruption had not taken place. But then came *Honesty to God*. Student revolution and the rejection of many accepted doctrinal traditions and traditional moral standards. During this interval, the Church of England has continued its energies on constitutional reform and the revision of the Prayer Book. It has become engrossed in ecumenical relationships at this level of interchurch committees which impinge little upon the laity. It has often endorsed liberal legislation affecting moral and social reforms when the reforms have ceased to be contentious. Most, if not all these changes, I gladly welcome, as steps in the right direction.

But we still have to grapple with the basic questions:

- Who was Jesus?
- What was His message?
- What does the acceptance of Jesus and His message demand of us today?
- How can we, weak sons of men, discover the secret to live as the sons of the God in whose image we are made?

The answers may be distasteful and as-astringent as brandy from a TCP bottle, but there will be no Christian renaissance until they are answered.

The author was Bishop of Southwark from 1959 to 1980.

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Philip Howard

# The sparkle beyond Offa's Dyke

A tricky lot, the Welsh. On my upper left thigh I carry a scar caused by the teeth of a Cardiff front-row forward 20 years ago. I suppose it may have been an accident. I reckon it is more likely to have been a deliberate act of the kind Welsh critics call a "Welsh cut". He simmers like a coked volcano, and dances up and down like a Welsh mountain goat on fire.

Nevertheless, there is more to Wales than *hwyf*, booze, Celtic melancholy, and Welsh crowds relieving themselves down the back of your gum-boots at Twickenham. Samuel Johnson was characteristically chauvinistic when he wrote to Boswell: "Wales is so little different from England that it offers nothing to the speculation of the traveller."

Cardiff is the place to be in the spring. The magnolias and daffodils are all out. From Penarth, Flat Holm and Steep Holm shine in the sunset like jewels set in the silver Bristol Channel. The Monets and others collected by the Davies sisters make the gallery in the National Museum of Wales the grandest little crescent of Impressionists in the world; and University College, Cardiff, is celebrating its centenary.

Almost the first job I had on *The Times* was to report the general meeting of the Classical Association, held that year in Cardiff. It was a memorable conference, both for the sticky bun and string quartet at the Lord Mayor's reception and for the unseasonable blizzard that made it impossible to get to the lecture.

And there I met the Professor of Latin and the Professor of Greek: two small, clever, witty, and very Welsh men - not at all the sort to bite your thighs or relieve them-

selves down the back of your gumboots.

"You'll be wanting to join the Class. Ass., then," they said - in unison. I explained that I was not a student, but a journalist, in case it interferes with their ability to put the boot in - whoops, I will rephrase that: in case it impairs the impartiality and fair-mindedness that are the hallmarks of the British Journalist. And so I joined University College, Cardiff, is still a powerhouse for the study of classics in the United Kingdom.

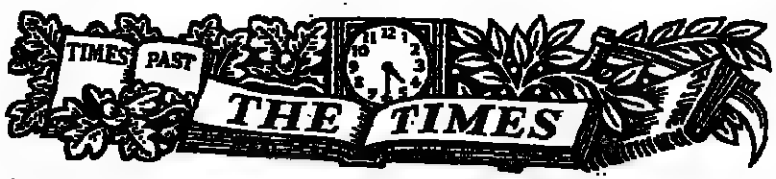
It is the powerhouse of quite a lot else as well, as is evident from the stylish literary symposium entitled *Fountains of Praise* that my old friends have helped to produce for the centenary. There are good poems in English and Latin, as well as Welsh: even in translation I can see that Saunders Lewis is a great poet. A marvellously diverse constellation of former students recall happy days of work and play at Cathays Park. Sian Phillips, the elegant actress; Billy Cleaver, the golden stand-off half; and Roy Jenkins, who spent a year at Cardiff as a staging-post between Abersychan grammar school and Balliol.

The book is congratulatory in intent and genial in execution. It is an informal and sparkling volume of celebration and display. There is plenty to celebrate and congratulate about the first century of University College. Even those of us not lucky enough to have studied there, can catch droplets from the fountain. It is a centre of national and international excellence. It is an antidote to the snooty English opinion that only Oxbridge counts, and that across Offa's Dyke you forget your culture and scholarship and prepare to meet male voice choirs, mad wing-forward, and Celtic misery melancholy. Cardiff is the only place to be this spring. Floreat, floreat.

What's on this May morning in the hills? Look at them, at the gold of the broom and laburnum. And the bright surprise on the shoulders of the thorn. And the intent emerald of the lawns at Cathays Park.

Sudden outburst... a bad far... the Indian... while the... the state... of Pun... pare with... the bloodletting... it has cost... lives and three... the political... stability of In... our state. As... problem that... of India. Mrs... afford to negle... In some re... trouble in Pur... the nature of... and militant... out of Hindu... years ago as... the caste sys... polytheism. S... the Sikh comm... Punjab, the re... around India a... political leader... familiar with a... agitation as a... ing their polit... ends. In 1966... to the division... two states - Pu... so that S... majority withi... new boundary... 1970's the Sik... for a large mea... of other politia... concessions, an... agitating since... Sikh politics... been made mor... the past few





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# PAYING FOR EXPORTS

Trade issues will dominate the economic agenda of the London summit in June. The "sherpas" - officials of the seven participating nations who draft the communiqué weeks in advance - have been banging on the walls of each other's import barriers. But there is another form of protectionism which is quite as insidious: the use of export subsidies to secure international contracts.

Eighteen months ago, a group of government economists (led by the Treasury) produced a report arguing that Britain's export subsidies were costly and ineffective, as a means of supporting industry or creating employment. Yesterday the National Economic Development Office, under pressure from the "little Neddies" of the industries most affected, issued an unusually angry public response.

Stripped of the unproductive quarrel about figures (estimates of the cost per job supported range from Nedo's £2,000 minimum to the Treasury's £200,000 maximum), there are three issues entangled in the dispute. First, should all industrial nations try to achieve a kind of multilateral disarmament in the subsidy war? Nedo, regrettably, does not even seem fully prepared to accept this objective, which greatly weakens its argument. Governments, however, have made some progress in this direction since the Treasury report was produced.

The interest-rate subsidy on export credits has been reduced, because the "consensus" rates of interest agreed by industrial nations were raised, after long

and painful negotiation, last year. (The cost has also been cut, less reliably, by a fall in market interest rates, narrowing the gap to be met by government subsidies.) The burning issue now is the use of "mixed credits" - a combination of development aid, tied to contracts with industrial concerns in the donor country and export credit finance. It is much to be hoped that pre-summit meetings of ministers will reach some agreement regulating the use of this expensive and distortive form of export subsidy.

Using the aid budget this way is an abuse of its primary purpose: to assist development in the receiving country. It is an abuse which makes it easier to argue for aid to be distributed by international organisations, with unrestricted tendering for the projects involved. A much more difficult question concerns the use of this and other forms of export subsidy by one country if others persist in subsidising their exports. If greater multilateral disarmament is impossible, does it make sense to go it alone?

As in the nuclear debate, the arguments are finely balanced. With no subsidies to give up, Britain has no bargaining power; the government goes naked to the trade conference table. The same danger of escalation exists, however: under pressure from its own industries, each government may ratchet up subsidies at ever greater international cost.

There is, however, a third issue distinct to the trade debate. Even if other governments continue with their subsidies, does it make economic sense to

# CASUALTIES OF DIVORCE

"It is very easy", declared a psychiatrist giving evidence to the Commons social services committee, whose report on children in the care of public authorities was published yesterday, "for a child to go through care with no one knowing whether they are left-handed or right-handed". With all possible goodwill, the staff of council homes for children whose families have proved unable to look after them cannot provide all the intimate individual attention that every child needs. The family context is the best - preferably the child's own family - and a warm foster-home if not.

It is a small sign of progress in recent years towards living up to this proposition - which would have the unhesitating assent of almost every worker involved in the field - that the number of children fostered in England is now very slightly higher than the number in residential homes. But the rise has been slow, and the variation between different local authorities is still far too wide. The apparently encouraging trend may to some extent only reflect some councils' practice of running down their residential places to save money. Cheaper still of course, would be helping families not to break up in the first place.

In the endless variety of harsh circumstances which scatter parents and their young children, there will always be cases where the best choice and even the second best are not available. But yesterday's report argues forcefully that if society paid

more regard to prevention and less to patching up failures after the event, much public expenditure as well as much human misery could be avoided. In an age of scarce resources, responding to an actual catastrophe is always too apt to take precedence over averting the nebulous possibility of one. But when, for instance, the money saved by keeping a single child out of care could pay for one additional full-time social worker, the penalties of false economy can be severe. Care takes a fifth of local authority spending on personal social services today.

The committee ranges widely over factors which may threaten families struggling to stay together, and admits that in many cases the exact line of cause and effect and the exact degree of benefit that may be expected from a given course of action are hard to quantify. There is need for closer research into the relative advantages of different courses - perhaps with the assistance of pilot projects. But the general thrust that prevention is better than cure must be right.

The committee's proposals range from the very remote - like the formal teaching of "parenting skills" to tomorrow's parents while they are still at school - to the very immediate, like greater discretion for councils to make small cash loans to families to tide them over a financial crisis which might otherwise precipitate break-up - which, all the evi-

# UNREST IN PUNJAB

Sudden outbreaks of violence are a sad but familiar feature of life in the Indian subcontinent. But while the recent unrest in the state of Punjab does not compare with the savage communal bloodletting in Assam last year, it has cost many hundreds of lives and threatens to undermine the political and economic stability of India's most prosperous state. As such it is not a problem that the Prime Minister of India, Mrs Indira Gandhi, can afford to neglect.

In some respects the present trouble in Punjab has its roots in the nature of Sikhism, the proud and militant religion that grew out of Hinduism four hundred years ago as a reaction against the caste system and Hindu polytheism. Some two-thirds of the Sikh community now live in Punjab, the rest being scattered around India and overseas. Sikh political leaders have long been familiar with the use of popular agitation as a means of furthering their political and religious ends. In 1966 Sikh agitation led to the division of Punjab into two states - Punjab and Haryana - so that Sikhs became a majority within the Punjab's new boundaries. In the early 1970's the Sikh political party the Akali Dal resolved to press for a large measure of autonomy for Punjab, as well as a number of other political and religious concessions; and it is for these concessions that Sikhs have been agitating since late 1982.

Sikh politics have however been made more complex during the past few years by the

emergence of a form of Sikh extremism, or fundamentalism, personified by the charismatic but dangerous Sikh leader Sant (or Saint) Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale. From his enclave in the Golden Temple at Amritsar Sant Bhindranwale preaches a philosophy that amounts to killing Hindus so as to attain the goal of Khalistan - the Sikh Land of the Pure. He and his followers must bear much of the blame for the violence of the last eighteen months or so. Much of it has been between moderate and extremist factions of Sikhs; but enough of it has been directed against Hindus to spur them into retaliatory violence, not only in Punjab but also in Haryana.

The unrest in Punjab has confronted Mrs Gandhi with some of the classic dilemmas posed by political extremism. Not all Sikhs by any means sympathize with the likes of Sant Bhindranwale, or even moderate leaders of the Akali Dal. Many Sikhs, especially among the professional and business classes, have allegiances that lie elsewhere. Moreover the successful Green Revolution that has transformed agriculture in Punjab during the last two decades has done much to secularise younger Sikhs, and weaken old loyalties. Indeed, it is this very process that has helped ignite the fires of Sikh fundamentalism, rather as Shiite fundamentalism was sparked off by the forces of modernization in Iran. Nevertheless the power - and the power to intimidate - of Sikh extremists has done much to

# Grim outlook for arts subjects

From Professor J. A. Berthoud

Sir, Two recent communications in your columns - a report of the British Academy's response to the University Grants Committee's questionnaire on university prospects (March 29) and a letter from the Association of the University Professors of French (April 10) - have expressed anxiety about the future of the arts. There is increasing evidence that these anxieties are not unfounded.

The UGC has just completed the second distribution of so-called "new blood" research posts as part of a three-year programme designed to mitigate the worst effects of government cuts in university funding.

The total figures, so far, are as follows: science, engineering and medicine (excluding information technology) - 488; social sciences and education - 51; arts - 48. These figures, of course, reflect DES guidelines. They can only be interpreted, therefore, as a massive reallocation of funds carried out without public debate.

The prospects for the arts look even grimmer when one has access to the details of the distribution within the humanities. What is, in terms of the volume and quality of its student applications, the strongest of the arts subjects - English - has been entirely overlooked both in the new posts created over the past two years, English departments - that is, departments designed to study and transmit the literature of the nation - have failed to secure a single one.

There must be local reasons for this extraordinary statistic. My point, however, lies elsewhere. I don't think that there can be much doubt that the arts are now regarded to use the terminology perfected at Downing Street - as "soft" subjects.

We know only too well what that means. But before the arts are finally allowed to drift to the peripheries of our culture some thought ought to be given to what a society deprived of all serious contact with its intellectual and cultural traditions would actually look like.

Yours etc,  
J. A. BERTHOUD,  
University of York,  
Department of English and Related Literature,  
Heslington, York.

# Girls in boys' schools

From the Rector of The Edinburgh Academy

Sir, Girls who choose to come to boys' schools are told very clearly what the difficulties are. They usually have serious reasons for their choice.

Some want particular courses, including for example, A levels, which are not generally available in Scotland. Some need a change, not necessarily to a boys' school, for a more questioning academic climate or for a mixed sixth form, or because they are disenchanted with their present school. Most of them subsequently think that they were right, some most enthusiastically.

We accept them, when we can, simply because they want what we offer, not for financial reasons. We enjoy their presence in class, but it does not follow that we should be completely co-educational.

Few schools can offer it, but an alternative which some children and their parents might prefer would be to have two nearby single-sex 11 to 16 schools, each sharing teachers with a common sixth-form college.

What is certain is that, in the independent sector, girls and their parents do not want these sixth-form places in boys' schools such places will not survive.

I remain, yours etc,  
L. E. ELLIS, Rector,  
The Edinburgh Academy,  
Henderson Row, Edinburgh.

# NCCL and racism

From Mr Richard Clutterbuck

Sir, It was with grave misgivings that I read your report (April 16) of the recent decision by the National Council for Civil Liberties not to recognise the civil rights of certain organisations, including the National Front.

The council seeks to be a forerunner in propounding a democratic society, yet by so deciding it seems to deny that very purpose. A democratic society presupposes criticism, choice and the development of ideas, all of which are wholly dependent on the free flow of information and opinion.

In failing to come to the aid of the "fascist" or the "racist" who is denied his civil rights, including freedom of expression, I am denying myself the opportunity to hear, to criticise and to choose.

It will be noted that article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights both sets out the principle of freedom of expression and then subjects it to permitted limitations, but only to such

# Stevie Smith biography

From Mr James MacGibbon

Sir, In his column on publishing in *The Times* today (April 16) E. J. Craddock devotes half his space to the matter of Stevie Smith's biography. I am her executor. Surprisingly he didn't, as other journalists have done, ask me for my comments before publishing the highly inaccurate story now being circulated in a round-robin letter by Professors William McBrien and Jack Barbera, the editors of *Me Again*, a collection of Stevie Smith's miscellaneous writings.

In view of what seems to be a personal attack by Mr Craddock, perhaps you will allow me to give my version of the story?

The two professors wrote to me in 1978 about their wish to write Stevie

# Balance of dues to God and mammon

From Mr John Murray

Sir, Your leader on the Dimpleby lecture (April 21) was welcome in that it pointed out that bishops should not assume that they have privileged insight into the political and administrative means of securing moral objectives. But your own conclusions are excessively kind to the Bishop of Liverpool at the expense of Professor Minford.

The Bishop manifestly suffers from the delusion that moral indignation permits us to ignore economic realities. Professor Minford endeavours to make us face them. There can be no fruitful compromise between these two approaches and we have wasted half a century in trying. Some pertinent economic realities are:

1. There is no popular thirst for equality in Britain, save in the special sense summed up in Shaw's dictum that if you propose to rob Peter in order to pay Paul you can always be sure of the enthusiastic support of Paul. If the Bishop himself really believed in equality, he would have to advise his "poor" flock to be prepared for much more poverty, since we would have to abandon the privileged living standards built up by our colonialist, capitalist grandfathers and share what we have with the third world.
2. In husbanding scarce resources we perform a most laudable duty among competing claimants. The notion that this allocation can be done by politicians or bureaucrats has been totally discredited by our own post-war experience, by its farcical repetition in third world nations and by current experience in France.
3. Those of us who abandoned the Socialist dreams of our youth in the light of this experience have faced the reality that the problem of private poverty cannot be solved merely by throwing public money at it. The only road to a prosperous, well employed community best able to look after its least fortunate citizens, is one in which men of talent, courage and energy will be continuously galvanised by the prospect of personal reward which, when won, will be theirs to reinvest, backing their own judgement with their own money.
4. Without such economic pathfinders labour is blind, investment sterile, the prospect of prosperity recedes to infinity and the scope of our charity is greatly diminished.
5. Some of Liverpool's problems are its own fault. "Mr Heseltine's blizzard of business" whose failure to invest in Merseyside was implicitly criticised in the lecture, may have been impressed by the record of local labour which has been renowned for intransigence and politically motivated disruption for half a century.
6. The recent irresponsible antics of the city's Labour councillors can only have reinforced that impression. No one wants to invest in unrest. No enterprise can succeed where management is mocked.
7. Inflation is the sign that a nation is not earning its keep. Successive past governments have conspired to

hide this truth under a veil of illusory prosperity, selling the future for present votes. The results are plain to see: a catastrophic fall in the value of our currency, high wages unrelated to quality or quantity of output and the widespread delusion that we are entitled to automatic improvement in our living standards.

The time has come to return to cutting our coat according to our cloth and to abandon the comfortable notion that personal problems can be resolved through state appropriation of someone else's money.

Mrs Thatcher's administration has stopped the rot; economists such as Professor Minford are seeking further ways in which to re-harness private interest to public advantage; such people constitute the only hope of reversing our frightening post-war decline and removing the poverty which the Bishop deplors. He should pray that they succeed and we must pray that his prayers are better than his political and economic panaceas.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN MURRAY,  
New Dyke House,  
Laburnum Avenue,  
Lymington, Hampshire,  
April 21.

From Mr William Wallace

Sir, I have read your sermonising editorials propounding Conservative theology with increasing bemusement over the past year. If I understand you right, a great deal of the Christian tradition must be stood on its head.

The pharisee, for example, was an excellent man, preoccupied with his "individual approach to God" (I quote your leader of April 21). In the modern world he would clearly have risen to be a bishop, or perhaps to be Dean of Peterhouse. The samaritan, on the other hand, was an interfering busybody, not content to accept the unfortunate side-effects of the market economy, but intervening in pursuit of mistaken socialist values.

The golden age of English Christianity to you, to Edward Norman, William Oddie and others, must I assume be the 18th century, when the Church of England was essentially the church unmillitant, supportive of the status quo in all its unavoidable imperfections - complete with "the rich man in his castle, the poor man at his gate."

For myself, I would have been with the Wesleys and the nonconformists, preaching those dangerous and militant values of compassion, justice, brotherhood and community.

You are broadminded enough to suggest in the best broad church style, that "neither side has a monopoly of right answers" (the debate about Christianity and free market economics. On the contrary, I regard some of the values propounded by our current government as profoundly un-Christian, and view these attempts to demonstrate that Christ was a Conservative as theologically absurd.

Yours sincerely,  
WILLIAM WALLACE,  
49 St James's Drive,  
Wandsworth Common, SW17,  
April 23.

# Shylock revisited

From Miss J. Hunter and Ms C. Morlock

Sir, In response to Mr Frankel's article of April 17, "Shylock: must we suffer this old infamy?" We feel compelled to write to express our regret at reading it.

That anyone should be insensitive to the irony which makes this production genuinely tragic, without resorting to the sentimentality of a less sensitive reading, and which presents the situation in a manner

profoundly critical of the Christian oppressors, amazes us. Irony has ever been a more powerful, albeit misunderstood, tool than sarcasm.

We can only recommend that your readers see Mr McDiarmid's fine performance in order to judge for themselves.

Yours etc,  
J. HUNTER,  
C. MORLOCK,  
41 Nelson Street,  
Norwich,  
Norfolk,  
April 17.

limitations as are prescribed by law and also "necessary in a democratic society".

It may well be that the council will at some future date reconsider its decision and when it does so the following extract from Lord Justice Scrutton's judgment in *O'Brien v Home Office* (1923) may be taken as a yardstick:

"It is indeed one test of belief in principles if you apply them to cases with which you have no sympathy at all; you really believe in freedom of speech if you are willing to allow it to men whose opinions seem to you wrong and even dangerous."

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD CLUTTERBUCK,  
The University of Sussex,  
School of Social Sciences,  
Arts Building,  
Falmer,  
Brighton,  
Sussex,  
April 17.

From Mr Stephen Sedley, QC

Sir, It is quite untrue to say, as your Social Policy Correspondent says (April 16), that the National Council for Civil Liberties has decided that "it would no longer recognise the

civil rights of members of the National Front". Nor have its officials been told "to withhold legal and other advice from a list of proscribed organisations".

Neither of the two resolutions which were passed called in question the right of racist organisations to exist and hold their views and act within the law. They recognized that the activities of such bodies nevertheless jeopardised the right of racial minorities to live free of fear and discrimination, and they therefore decided that it would be inconsistent - even hypocritical - for the NCCL knowingly to aid them. There is no proscribed list, and the policy continues to be that all inquirers will be told NCCL's position on civil liberty issues.

It is also untrue to say that the decision was "a victory for left-wingers". The debate and the voting cut right across any recognizable political division.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN SEDLEY,  
3 Torriano Cottages,  
Kensington, NW3,  
April 17.

# Root causes of urban damage

From Mr Brian Lingard

Sir, The findings in the Russell v Barnett case reported in *The Times* on April 19 have some grave implications for our urban environment.

In this case, damages were granted to the owners of a property against the local authority because of damage caused to the structure of the house by the roots of an oak tree growing in the roadway nearby. The result of the case will thus be that every local authority will now seek to fell every tree situated in the highway which is within 20 or 30 feet of buildings in order to avoid liability to adjoining property owners.

One of the visual glories of London is the close relationship which is enjoyed between mature trees and nearby buildings, many London plane trees having been companions to immediately adjacent buildings in the street scene for over a hundred years. Building societies, lawyers and property owners have become far too concerned in recent years over the minor movements which can occur in a structure over the life of the building.

It is these minor settlements and movements which give to our older buildings the mature character which adds so much to the street scene and in virtually all cases the small cracks and settlements which result have no material structural significance.

Legislation is therefore needed now as a matter of urgency in order to relieve local authorities of this burden of responsibility; otherwise we are going to see the early slaughter of vast numbers of existing town and city trees which provide us with much that is attractive in the character of our urban areas.

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN LINGARD,  
Brian Lingard and Partners,  
50 Pall Mall, SW1,  
April 19.

# The Bettaney case

From Dr Adrian Tibbitts

Sir, In your leader (April 17) on the Bettaney case you profess "bafflement" at the "continuing ideological pull of the Soviet Union". The fact that the details of the Gulag are now well known is not the point however: on this evaluation examples such as Robben Island, El Salvador, Chile and the "disappeared" of Argentina cannot be ignored. Tyranny is not peculiar to the USSR or its ideology and to assume that it is comotes a dangerously blinkered approach.

So far from any attraction in present-day Soviet ideology (the presentation of which, apparently unbeknown to the KGB, is excruciatingly banal) there must lie at the root of many of these modern cases of what you term "spiritual blight", the revulsion which can often be felt by those who, brought up in the comforting belief that the West is good and the East evil, suddenly discover that we, too, have a ruthless and highly secretive Establishment which is itself capable of "institutionalised brutalities" against more and more British citizens whom it perceives as a potential threat of one kind and another to its own idea of how our society should be ordered.

The corollary to such a discovery is the question whether our own system is in practice worth risking a nuclear holocaust for, and whether the arms race and the mutual mistrust engendered by the cold war espionage game are not dangerous madness.

Certainly, Soviet trials and punishment of dissidents are an affront to humanity. But we in this country have just put a man away for 23 years after a secret trial with a jury vetted by the state and all details of his defence suppressed. Even in the case of the Yorkshire Ripper the principle was honoured that justice be seen to be done. It is a grim reflection upon the priorities we are pledged to defend.

Yours faithfully,  
ADRIAN TIBBITTS,  
6 West Park Grove,  
Leeds,  
April 19.

# Councils and Zola Budd

From Lord Kitchener of Kharoum

Sir, Surely the functions of central and local government should as far as possible be kept distinct; and if the former has declared Miss Zola Budd to be British the latter should not be able to distinguish her from other British citizens.

Yours faithfully,  
KITCHENER,  
House of Lords,  
April 25.

# Unfair daffodils

From Mr Geoffrey Yorke

Sir, The uncooperative daffodils in Dr Croft's garden are simply turning towards the best source of light. Planted near the house they will turn away from it to where the sky is more visible. If Dr Croft has a front garden wall or hedge, daffodils planted near it will look towards the house.

I have north-facing daffodils against a fence on my southern boundary, and south-facing ones on the opposite side of the garden.

It's only natural, if you come to think of it. You would not sit on your patio staring at the house would you?

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFFREY YORKE,  
13 Morton Street,  
Royston,  
Hertfordshire,  
April 23.







## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

## Advantage the professor in Fraser's war of words

No significant announcement by House of Fraser would be complete these days without the obligatory custard pie cast in the general direction of Lorrho, holder of 29.9 per cent of House of Fraser's shares and perpetual concern to the department stores group.

Yesterday House of Fraser announced pretax profits for the year to January up by 25 per cent to £38.7m, on the back of a nine per cent sales improvement to £841m. The final dividend is 6p a share, making a total of 8.5p against 7.5p previously.

But Professor Roland Smith, the chairman, could not resist adding that Lorrho's attempts to demerger Harrods from the rest of the group had so far cost House of Fraser the grossed-up equivalent of £8m, "enough to build two new stores", as he put it.

The figure has been dressed up for propaganda purposes. The actual cost of circulating shareholders and holding meetings for them has been about £4.5m. But some of this has not been tax deductible, so it has been grossed up to show how much profit has had to be earned to allow for that.

On the other hand, these sums do not include the drain on executive time and energy, time which the Lorrho board doubtless believe to be well spent. In November 1982, Professor Smith told Lorrho to get its tanks off his lawn, and yesterday he argued confidently that Harrods was so closely integrated with the rest of House of Fraser that the demerger debate must be deemed over.

Lorrho will find that edict hard to swallow, particularly as Harrods' trading profit rose by some 20 per cent to a record of just under £20m. That means that it has less need of outside capital, but it must also make its potential stock market value that much higher as a separately quoted company. Harrods' performance is all the more impressive, remembering the car bomb which exploded outside the store in December. Apart from the horrific death and injury incurred, the Christmas trade was devastated. Coupled with the bomb detonated in Oxford Street after Christmas, House of Fraser estimates that it lost £10m sales and perhaps £2m profit over all its London stores in the immediate aftermath.

What we shall never know is how many overseas tourists have altered summer plans as a result of those winter outrages and, for that matter, the siege at the Libyan People's Bureau. In House of Fraser's favour are the continued buoyancy of consumer spending coupled with only limited prospects for any recovery in sterling. A slightly wild card is previous experience suggesting "that more Americans tend to stay at home in a presidential election year."

But the company's sales so far this year are 11 per cent higher, which should provide enough of a platform for profits to improve to around £45m. We have yet to see the full fruits of the current five-year refurbishment programme, itself another bone of contention with the Lorrho camp. The tanks are likely to remain on the lawn, but at least the barrels are lowered.

## Mystery deepens at Minet

At first glance, the affair of Minet's missing millions looks like yet another of those Lloyd's mysteries which in another age Holmes and Watson could have unravelled in a trice. Yet more details surfaced yesterday when Minet, one of Britain's largest insurance brokers, published its 1983 results, which threaten to add a still more frightening aspect to the imbroglio.

Ray Pettitt, Minet chairman, spelt out the facts of the PCW affair fairly calmly. The problems in the underwriting agency arose from various reinsurance arrangements made during 1970-1982. The programmes were immensely complicated, involving the formation of more than 150 companies and trusts.

Net reinsurance premiums worth nearly £39m were involved. According to Mr Pettitt: "Various former directors of the agency, together with other individuals, derived an improper personal benefit from these arrangements. Legal proceedings have been commenced against them."

Minet's investigation team has so far located assets worth about £26m controlled from Gibraltar. The company is trying to get the money back.

Clearly Mr Pettitt is hopeful that the £26m at least can be unlocked from Gibraltar and returned to the syndicates. Clearly, too, he feels that the provisions he has made against 1983 profits of £5.7m, should be enough to see the group through the horrendous affair. Yesterday, he reiterated his confidence in the group's prospects, and backed up his optimism with a forward-looking final dividend payment of 2.45p.

But the jinxed PCW syndicates also managed to strike elsewhere in the financial. A review by Richard Beckett Underwriting Agencies, (formerly PCW Underwriting Agencies) has reversed the earlier views of the syndicates' profitability. As far as Minet is concerned, this means that profits commission included in the first-half figures not have to be stripped out, slashing profits by £1.6m. It means that some 1,100 names in the syndicates, who last May received useful payments, on account might now have to repay the money.

But the story sets worse. Losses have arisen on the syndicates because of heavier-than-expected potential payouts for asbestos and other risks. This is the real Pandora's Box into which perforce Lloyd's and its members must start to peek. For the potential losses arising from booming claims for asbestos in Britain, but mainly in the USA, are such that a small matter of some £39m missing from Minet Holdings may dwindle by comparison.

According to broker Savory Millin, contingent liabilities arising from these claims may total between \$50 and \$200 billion but the actual total is quite unquantifiable. The brokers, however, have no doubt that a fairly large percentage of the claims may find their way to London. The problem for current Lloyd's names is acute, because if the final reinsurance premium to close an underwriting year is inadequate - and Savory considers that Lloyd's have been far too optimistic about the costs of asbestos-related claims - then the extra costs from previous years fall on the current names, which is rough on the new ones. But the only alternative is to keep a year open, and meet the claims as they come in. Which is also hard cheese, if you belong to one of the PCW Syndicates, and thought you had recouped, through last May's £15,000 cheque, a little of the syndicates' £39m losses.

## Europe's poor relation

Britain's place in the vanguard of European recovery last year was not enough to shift it from its lowly ranking in the prosperity stakes. The latest OECD figures show it 10th in the international league table, where it has stuck for the past five years. Within the EEC, only Italy and Ireland are poorer.

Nor does there appear to be much immediate prospect of our relative position changing. So far the Government has rightly concentrated on Britain's home-made problems and ineptitudes in its attempt to boost our economic standing. But it may now be time to look at the European context. It is no accident that the poorer nations, including Britain, are those furthest from Europe's industrial heartland, and that is also true for regional disparities within countries.

Once (if ever) the Community's budget row is settled, the Government should ponder the potential benefits to Britain of a coherent European regional strategy.

## Pension funds do better

By Lorna Bourke

A survey of the 836 United Kingdom pension funds monitored by stockbrokers Wood Mackenzie shows that many must now be in a position to improve benefits - which could mean better terms for early leavers - or cut contributions. The average total return on the pension funds monitored reached 22.7 per cent over the past year. Funds which performed best

## Shares slump after £41.7m foreign deficit

## Overseas losses hit Wimpey

By Ian Griffiths

The Stock Market wiped £31m off the value of George Wimpey, the construction and engineering company, after it announced exceptional losses of £41.7m on three of its overseas activities, and that pre-tax profits in 1983 had fallen by £700,000 to £45m from last year.

The biggest loss of £22.9m came in Saudi Arabia where the group has a 49 per cent interest in an electrical and mechanical engineering company. It is in financial difficulty and losses of £16.4m on contracts and £6.5m on overheads and a reduction in the company's activities have been incurred.

In Hongkong, last year's fall in property values has led to the termination of a joint venture to develop residential property. The cost of honouring financial obligations and writing off the original investment was £9.2m. If property prices recover Wimpey may recoup some of the loss and it has not dented the group from carrying on with other contracts in the colony.

The final loss of £29.6m was in Swaziland on a contract to construct a hydro-electric system. Wimpey has lodged a substantial claim for compensation. Although group turnover increased by 20 per cent this did not filter through to operating profit, which increased by a

## Whitehall threat to subsidies angers leading exporters

By Derek Harris

An influential Whitehall report that seriously questions government support for exports of heavy machinery and process plant was sharply criticized yesterday.

Ending of government aid through export credit subsidies and development aid to overseas countries would cause British exporters possibly irreversible harm, the president of the Confederation of British Industry, Sir Campbell Fraser, has told the Chancellor.

The CBI believes government aid - far from being phased out as what is known as the Byatt Report apparently concluded - should in fact be improved.

And at the launch of a detailed criticism by the National Economic Development Office (NEDO), Mr John Lippitt, export director at GEC, claimed there had already been changes of attitude as a result of

the Byatt Report, with assistance being denied some companies.

NEDO in its criticism returned "widespread uncertainty and consternation" and called for a clear statement of government intentions.

The CBI called for the Government to make clear it was not switching policy on aid and described the Byatt Report as "thoroughly damaging to Britain's industrial interests."

The Byatt Report prepared in 1982 and published last January concluded that the cost of capital goods support through interest-rate subsidies and under Aid and Trade Provisions (APT) was high and an inefficient way to promote employment.

NEDO maintains that at least half-a-dozen key conclusions of the Byatt Report are open to serious question. Byatt puts

£200,000 each annually, which is 10 to 40 times more than special government employment measures.

But NEDO maintains the cost is £2,500 to £10,000 - close to special employment measures costs - or, on a sample of recent large projects, in the range of £1,500 to £3,000.

On interest rates Byatt is out dated, says NEDO. An international consensus and changes in market rates had brought a significant reduction in rates of subsidy.

"Arguments seem to be advanced in favour of a unilateral removal of export subsidies - and of tied aid and even export credit guarantees - with no regard to the implications this might have for the future survival of exporting industries that have a very slim home-market base or to the likely

cumulative repercussions on UK output, employment and the balance of payments."

Failure to match the financial terms of overseas competitors in third markets can mean not just the loss of marginal business but the wholesale destruction of export-dependent industries, with serious repercussions on suppliers, NEDO says.

Mr Lippitt denied that aid particularly benefited big companies because, although they might be leaders on a particular contract, possibly three-quarters of the work would be spread among sub-contractors.

The argument was not that public expenditure for this kind of aid should be increased but that within existing ceilings there should be more resources switched to ATP aid, said Mr Lippitt.

## BSR discounts Hongkong fears

By Jonathan Clare

The adverse reaction to the impending change of sovereignty over Hongkong and subsequent nervousness caused by the Foreign Secretary's statement have been grossly overdone, according to Mr Bill Wylie, the chairman of BSR International.

He told shareholders in the electronics to Swan saucapans group at yesterday's annual meeting that BSR International, which transferred its head office to Hongkong after Mr Wylie took over 16 months ago, had no worries about the impact of Chinese rule.

He said: "There was never any doubt that China in 1997 would regain sovereignty. Some people in Hongkong took the view that Britain would renegotiate the lease. That view is a misunderstanding of the situation. The treaties were regarded by the Chinese as having been imposed under duress. It is



Bill Wylie: no worries about impact of Chinese rule

impossible for a government of renegotiate."

Mr Wylie is an Australian engineer with a formidable reputation established in Hongkong after he rescued the Hutchinson Whampoa trading house in the late 1970s. He added that he was

"delighted" with Sir Geoffrey Howe's statement that Britain was making efforts to secure a future for the people of Hongkong.

Mr Wylie said the Hongkong economy was strengthening rapidly and the main problem was the shortage of labour. However, his stout defence of the colony's future did not stop the stock market marking the shares down by 22p to 283p. Analysts' forecasts for full year profits range from £31m to £36m against £17.4m.

Mr Wylie will be visiting stockbrokers and institutional investors over the next two weeks. The City has few worries about BSR's presence in Hongkong given the company's widespread manufacturing interests throughout the Far East.

Further growth in both profits and sales is expected this year, said Mr Wylie, but, the improvement will again come predominantly in the second half with a dull first half.

## Blue Circle may buy coal abroad

By Jeremy Warner

The cement industry may import coal to feed its kilns if the miners' strike continues for much longer.

The possibility is being considered by Blue Circle Industries, Britain's largest cement producer, its chairman, Mr John Milne, conceded yesterday. The company's stock will last two months.

The cement industry uses about 2.5 million tonnes of coal a year and is the National Coal Board's third-largest customer, after the CEB and British Steel.

Mr Milne made his comments as he reported pretax profits of £109.5m for 1983, up from £107.8m. Most analysts had expected a small fall and Blue Circle shares rose 6p to 431p.

The increase was achieved despite interest charges which more than doubled, from £10.3m to £21.4m, because of heavy spending on US acquisitions and on modernization.

Cement deliveries in Britain are expected to be marginally higher this year. A recommended final dividend of 13p lifts the total from 18.25p to 19p.

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## US Macmillan buys Scribner

From Bailey Morris Washington

Macmillan Inc is to acquire Scribner in a transaction uniting two of America's most prestigious book companies.

The agreement was signed in Washington yesterday by Mr Edward Evans, chairman of Macmillan, sold by its British parents in 1952, and Mr Charles Scribner, chairman of the family-owned business founded in 1846. It involves the transfer of Macmillan shares worth \$15m to Scribner shareholders.

The now publicly-held Macmillan Inc is probably the most famous as publisher of Margaret Mitchell's *Gone With The Wind*, one of the industry's all-time best sellers.

mere £100,000. This was due to margin tightening, particularly in construction civil engineering.

Private housebuilding in Britain however, continued the upward trend first detected in 1981. During the year 9,330 house sales were completed, more than 2,000 up on the figure of two years ago. The trend has continued in 1984 but the Budget announcement of the imposition of VAT on refurbishment could affect Wimpey's business.

The company has also been forced to provide an additional £11.2m for deferred taxation now required following the changes to corporation tax.

## Trafalgar sells hotel

By Our Commercial Editor

Holiday Inn, the world's largest hotel group which is expanding in Britain, has bought for £5m cash the Hotel Bristol in London's Mayfair from Trafalgar House.

Holiday Inn plans to spend £1m on refurbishing the 192-bedroom four-star Bristol which will become the Holiday Inn Mayfair.

Trafalgar, which operates the Ritz Hotel in London, says it plans to expand its interests in the "five-star" sector. The Bristol will bring the total number of Holiday Inns in Britain to 19.

## Britain lags on living standards

By Frances Williams Economics Correspondent

Living standards in Britain still lag behind those of her northern European neighbours and Japan and the United States, according to comparisons from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

In terms of national income per head, Britain ranked tenth last year among the 15 leading western nations listed. That has remained unchanged since 1978.

The league table, in the latest issue of the *OECD Observer*, is calculated by converting gross domestic product per head to dollars using a method called purchasing power parities. This compares the cost of a common representative basket of goods and services.

| INCOME PER CAPITA, US\$ |        |        |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|
|                         | 1982   | 1983   |
| United States           | 12,647 | 13,108 |
| Denmark                 | 10,031 | 10,988 |
| Germany                 | 10,380 | 10,880 |
| France                  | 9,581  | 10,747 |
| Luxembourg              | 11,087 | 10,748 |
| Japan                   | 9,583  | 10,589 |
| Belgium                 | 8,495  | 10,293 |
| Netherlands             | 8,414  | 9,853  |
| Austria                 | 8,269  | 8,852  |
| United Kingdom          | 8,281  | 8,095  |
| Italy                   | 7,958  | 8,520  |
| Spain                   | 6,428  | 6,970  |
| Ireland                 | 5,683  | 6,156  |
| Greece                  | 5,019  | 5,410  |
| Portugal                | 4,180  | 4,552  |

## Dollar gains on mark

The dollar rose in thin afternoon trading yesterday, gaining 1.60 pfennigs to close in London at DM 2.6970, its highest level for more than two months.

Expectations of continuing firm American interest rates, industrial troubles in Europe and suggestions that today's United States trade figures may be less bad than feared all helped to underpin the currency.

The pound traded largely on the sidelines. It lost 80 points to close in London at \$1.4030, just over a cent above its record low of \$1.3910, its trade-weighted index against a basket of leading currencies eased 0.1 to 79.8.

## STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1130.9 up 11.7 (day's high: 1131.5, low: 1124.7). FT Index: 89.1 up 11.5. FT All Share: 532.18 up 4.39. Bergsma: 20.045. Datascreen US&L Leaders. New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1168.18 up 5.65. Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 10,901.52 up 35.18. Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1070.70 down 12.2. Amsterdam: 173.2 up 2.1. Sydney: AO Index 752.9 down 6.2. Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1028.5 up 2.1. Brussels: General Index 155.06 up 0.35. Paris: CAC Index 175.1 up 0.7. Zurich: SCA General Index 313.40 up 2.40.

## CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE  
Sterling: \$1.4030 down 80pts  
Index 79.8 down 0.1  
DM 3.7850 unchanged  
FF 11.8050 down 0.0050  
Yen 167.25 down 1.50  
Dollar: Index 129.0 up 0.4  
DM 2.6970 up 0.0160  
NEW YORK LATEST  
Sterling \$1.4040  
Dollar DM 2.6960  
INTERNATIONAL  
ECU 0.590172  
SDR (not available)

## INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:  
Bank base rates 8 1/2 %  
Finance houses base rate 9 1/2 %  
Discount market loans week fixed 8 1/2 %  
3 month interbank 8 1/2 % - 8 3/4 %  
Euro-currency rates:  
3 month dollar 10 1/2 % - 11 %  
3 month DM 5 1/4 % - 5 1/2 %  
3 month FF 12 1/2 % - 12 3/4 %  
US rates:  
Bank prime rate 12.00  
Fed funds 10 %  
Treasury long bond 9 1/2 % - 9 3/4 %  
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period March 7 to April 3, 1984 inclusive: 8.976 per cent.

## Wordplex Information Systems PLC

(Registered in England No. 1260553 under the Companies Act 1948 to 1981)

## Offer for Sale by Tender by Hill Samuel &amp; Co. Limited

of 9,961,333 ordinary shares of 50p each at a minimum tender price of 240p per share

## SHARE CAPITAL

Authorised  
£7,500,000

Issued and fully paid  
Ordinary shares of 50p each £5,084,833

Wordplex Information Systems PLC and its subsidiaries are engaged in the sale and support of a range of electronic equipment and software for office automation.

The Application List for the ordinary shares now being offered for sale will open at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 2nd May, 1984 and may be closed at any time thereafter. The price tendered is payable in full on application.

Copies of the Prospectus (on the terms of which alone applications will be considered) with Application Forms are available from:

Hill Samuel & Co. Limited,  
100 Wood Street,  
London EC2P 2AJ

Rowe & Pitman,  
City-Gate House,  
39-45 Finsbury Square,  
London EC2A 1JA

from the following branches of National Westminster Bank PLC:

New Issues Department,  
2 Princes Street,  
London EC2P 2BD

80 George Street,  
Edinburgh EH2 3DZ

and from the following branches of Hill Samuel & Co. Limited:

71 New Street,  
Birmingham B2 4DU  
15 Clare Street,  
Bristol BS1 1XO

19 St. James's Square,  
London SW1Y 4JQ  
39 Wigmore Street,  
London W1H 0AL

7 Booth Street,  
Manchester M2 4AE  
2 Vincent Place,  
Glasgow G1 2DT

The Prospectus is being advertised in full, with an Application Form, in The Financial Times and The Daily Telegraph on Friday, 27th April, 1984.

WORDPLEX INFORMATION SYSTEMS PLC

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Nigeria gas go-ahead

Nigeria has told Shell that it intends to "speed up the implementation" of a \$6.6 billion (£4.7 billion) liquefied natural gas (LNG) project which it was widely expected to scrap.

Shell was appointed project leader, and one of only two equity partners, by the government of President Shugu Shagari less than two weeks before it was deposed.

UBM, the builder's merchants, has boosted pretax profits for the year to February 29 to £10.259m, up from £2.68m. Turnover increased from £172.3m to £179m. A final dividend of 4p has been recommended making 6.5p for the year. Tempos, page 17

CLIVE DISCOUNTS published profits, after tax and transfers to hidden reserves, were £1.3m. (1983: £1.85m). Tempos, page 17

## GOLD

London fixed (per ounce): am \$381.60 pm \$379.90 close \$376.60 - \$377 (2268.5 - 2269). New York (latest): \$377.50 Kruggerand (par coin): \$387.38 (2276.25 - 2277.25). Sovereigns (new): \$84.25 - \$89.25 (263 - 263.75). Excludes VAT



## A subsidiary goes in to BAT for the small firm

above-named company.  
Dated this thirteenth day of April  
1984  
F. E. DACK  
Liquidator.



## STOCK MARKET REPORT

## Index moves within a fraction of 900

By Wayne Lintott

The London Stock Exchange surged ahead again yesterday, as the Easter account drew to a close and new buyers kept the pressure on the stock-short jobbers.

The FT 30 index firmed another 11.5 points, for the second consecutive day, and closed within a whisker of the important psychological 900 level at 899.1.

Of the top 30 share only four moved lower and the excellent trading results from several of the constituent companies, not least of all ICL, added impetus to the gains as Wall Street recorded another strong session.

Among the leaders Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation firmed 11p to 313p as speculators decided that the

The shares of Monopoly games-maker John Waddington jumped 10p to 423p yesterday after rising 20p on Wednesday. They are so light on the market that they are making those kind of mark-ups just to shake some loose. Apparently, an order of as little as 1,000 shares is enough to cause the shares to jump 10p. BPCC holds 29.99 per cent and word is that it will make another takeover attempt when rules permit. Meanwhile, Waddington directors are happy to see the shares continue firming.

Shares are a good gamble as May 25 approaches when Trafalgar House might renew its attack. On the old terms, 5-for-4, Trafalgar would be paying 336p as its shares too, made headway.

The shares at 269p up 14p helped by news that it has sold the lease on its Bristol House hotel to Holiday Inn for £5m for a 36-year lease, while retaining the freehold. Trafalgar's figures are due on May 9.

Shipping analysts were evenly divided on Trafalgar's intentions. The general consensus was that Trafalgar will not renew its takeover attempt, particularly after chairman, Mr Nigel Brookes, had contemplated selling Trafalgar's P&O stake to Sterling Guarantee. A deal aborted by the remaining Trafalgar board. Both companies remained silent yesterday.

Blue Circle, although below the best, firmed 6p to 431p on its better-than-expected profits performance. And the reporting season among the leaders was also responsible for many good gains.

Fosco Mines firmed 5p to 189p as the brokers, do Zocote and Bevan, forecast next Monday's 1983 figures at £19.5m against £14.9m and that the present year should produce pretax profits of about £26m.

Marks and Spencer also came in for some heavy news time buying. Its results are due on Tuesday and analysts were projecting profits of £280m for 1983 against £237.1m the year before. The shares gained a further 3p to 256p, showing a near 40p gain over the last month. Tarmac is another company reporting next Tuesday and buoyant expectations added 10p to those shares at 514p.

## WALL STREET

## Dow makes early advance

Wall Street share prices opened higher in active early trading. The Dow Jones Industrial average, was ahead 7.43 points to 1170.96 shortly after the market opened.

Advances led declines 617-281 among the 1,323 issues crossing the tape.

Federal funds rates that

Also in the building sector, Wimpey bucked the trend by dropping 11p to 138p in news of overseas trading losses. Some chartist recommendations helped British Aerospace firm 10p to 262p while Hawker Siddeley soared 14p to 474p on its recent good results.

The minority shareholders of B.L. saw that company's shares firm 5p to 70p on news that the new Montego car has been well received. Leading component suppliers Associated Engineering gained 4p to 84p.

Grand Metropolitan hit a new 1984 peak of 346p, up 10p, as the continuing warm weather supported brewery share prices. Bass climbed 12p to 378p.

In the secondary sector Martin The Newsagent cooled the speculative fervour surrounding its recently strong share price by announcing that contrary to market talk, it knew of no reason for the strength of the share price and had no knowledge that could justify any takeover optimism. The shares closed at 196p, just a penny better, having risen 15p prior to the announcement.

The Times story yesterday that Mr Asil Nadi's Poly Peck/Wearwell group of companies were close to working out the much expected merger terms, helped Wearwell gain another 5p to 136p.

The 50 per cent increase in profits and the 50 per cent scrip issue by Laporte caught the market unawares and the shares jumped 12p to 468p.

Keith Shaw, gold share analyst at Laing & Crutchfield, and a former ConsGold man, confirmed that Australian gold share Southern Resources is really as promising as the recent quarterly exploration prospects suggest. Laing & Crutchfield is not the broking firm for the company but he went out to the site recently to check on Southern and rates it as having prospects that are bigger than Mr Charlotte. As Mr Shaw is switching clients from the low yielding main stream gold shares into more exciting, younger companies, he sees Southern, now priced at 90p, as a very cheap way into a large capital appreciation.

Saatchi and Saatchi rose 30p to 725p as the market caught up with The Times disclosure yesterday that the interim figures due next Tuesday will be much better than had widely been expected.

The banking sector came in for some much needed support after Barclays dismissed rights issue fears - up 20p to 504p. Lloyds firmed 15p to 639p while Nat West climbed 18p to 667p. The much troubled Midland had to be content with a 10p gain to 399p.

Harold Ingram added 40p to 293p. Once again there was nothing known to support such a climb and still less has been heard from the Turkish majority shareholders.

In the new issue sector Delaney's gained a 3p premium over its placing price of 42p. Coming to the Unlisted Securities Market soon are E. T.

## FOREIGN

## EXCHANGES

Demand for dollars built up considerably after a fairly quiet morning. Dealers reported a keen commercial demand with the opening of New York as operators covered positions in front of last night's announcement of US money supply and today's news of US March trade.

Sterling, along with other major European currencies, managed a small rise against the dollar at the outset, only to drop back steadily during the afternoon to close a net 85 points down at 1.4030 (after 1.4015).

The pound's effective exchange rate index ended 0.1 off at 79.8.

The market was forecasting a "flat" position on US M1 money supply and a \$9bn-plus trade deficit for March.

## MONEY MARKETS

The Bank of England appeared to have some difficulty in coining out enough bills to relieve a shortage in the London discount market that it put at around £600m, a lunchtime revision from the early morning estimate of around £550m.

In a morning operation the Bank was able to buy only £98m of bills. It then took a further £131m of paper at midday. A further £235m of bills responded to the Bank's invitations in the afternoon, but not until the market had seen an offer of "repo" terms sufficiently unattractive to prompt a response of only £131m.

These purchases and resale agreements were at 8 1/4 per cent. All the outright bill purchases were at established intervention rates.

## TEMPUS

## Blue Circle's lift-off looks like 1985

It must be a source of some embarrassment to senior managers at Blue Circle Industries that while most companies in the building materials sector are reporting dramatic increases in earnings, their company's profits have failed to lift off the plateau where they have been for some years.

In 1983, pretax profits rose just £1.7m to £109.5m, thanks largely to a buoyant contribution from the Armitage Shanks sanitary ware company in Britain, and a good first-time contribution from US cement plants acquired by the group last May. The current year is not going to be a lot better with substantial redundancy costs likely to eat deep into British cement profits, the South African offshoot almost certain to see a severe setback in its contribution, and continued heavy losses in the Indonesian business which the group has now written off in its accounts.

Blue Circle's time will come in 1985 when, ironically, the building materials companies now basking in the glory of huge profit increases will be reporting rather more pedestrian performances.

Latin-America, which once contributed £45m to profits, should be in sharp recovery by then and, in Britain, the upswing in the Western European construction cycle considerably reduce the import

threat, allowing the cement industry to push through its first price increase in over three years and Blue Circle to reap the rewards of its high investment in productivity and energy efficiency.

So the current multiple of 7 on the shares at 431p could come down to under 5 in 1985, while the yield of 6.3 per cent provides solid back-up support. Though there is a strong possibility that further acquisitions in the US and Britain will be equity-financed, the shares represent very good value.

## UBM

Shareholders who remained faithful to UBM during its successful battle last year to fight off a bid from Norcross have been rewarded with a set of results which beat all the profit forecasts handed out at the time and a dividend which has increased nearly threefold. The turnaround from a loss two years ago has been completed and the company is now full of confidence.

Pretax profit has climbed steadily and gearing has dropped from 45 per cent to 5 per cent. Much of the credit must go to the new management team which has squeezed efficiency out of UBM's operations.

A healthy cash flow and some 10 million unissued shares at the ready leaves UBM ideally placed to move on to the acquisition trail. Smaller companies in the building supplies or glass business would make ideal targets but UBM has its hands tied to a large extent by the ominous presence of Norcross.

As a legacy of the failed takeover bid, Norcross retains a stake of 35 per cent in UBM and with the chance to renew its assault coming up in October it would relish any opportunity to point an accusing finger of mismanagement.

A renewed bid could not be made at a knock down price, however, and Norcross has already been on the wrong end of a ferocious defence. Despite its impressive recovery there is still room for improvement at UBM. The return on sales is still only 3.2 per cent and the acquisition policy will remain artificially unstable while uncertainties remain over Norcross's intentions.

The share-price dipped 2p to 150p. Shareholders have little to worry about in the short term, since further growth can be expected under the present management and the arrival of another bid would almost certainly boost the price again.

## Clive

Clive, one of the nimble houses in the discount market, is hurrying to take advantage of deregulation moves in the gilt market. Fledgling moves to job in short gilts have proved successful enough for the trading portfolio to grow to eight stocks since February. Net 1983/84 profits, down from £1.85m to £1.26m, resembled a solid performance against these planned moves, given the changed outlook for gilts last year and £100,000 goodwill write off against the Page and Gwyther purchase. In 1982/83, gross redemption yields fell three points to 11 1/4 per cent during Clive's financial year, and virtually anyone with a long book could have made money. But last year, the comparable yield change was about 1/2 points. The trading range contracted, along with running margins. Clive coped by stepping up the volume of trading, and running a very tight book.

The jump in balance-sheet investments of £15m to £64m, does not belie this strategy, since the increase reflects the recent move into jobbing. Current assets also hit a record £436m. Presumably if a wealthy suitor with a big credit line steps forward from the wings, then the trading equation factories beautifully. The shares rose 1p to 64p on the results.

## Hongkong Bank Group - increase in profits in 1983

## The Chairman reports:

## Results for 1983

Despite worldwide economic adversities in 1983, the group once again increased its profits, to HK\$2,492 million, an increase of 5.7 per cent compared with 1982.

At the Ordinary Yearly General Meeting a final dividend of 37 cents will be recommended.

As in previous years, a bonus issue will be recommended, this time on the basis of one new share for every four held.

Your Board expects to be able to pay at least the same quantum of dividend for 1984 as for 1983 - not less than HK\$0.44 per share as increased by the recommended bonus issue.

## The Economic Situation

During 1983 we could see the global economy begin to emerge from its long and deep recession, but there has been an uneven pattern of recovery.

The Asia-Pacific region is going to be a prime testing ground for the ability of the banking system to cope with the problem of resource allocation. During 1983 the region as a whole demonstrated remarkable resilience in the face of difficulties shared with other major trading and producing areas.

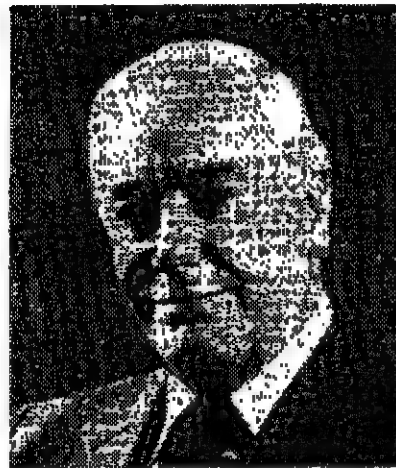
Expansion of Hong Kong's economy accelerated in the second half of the year and into 1984 when exports showed record figures and order books were being rapidly filled. Action to stabilise the Hong Kong dollar, taken by the Government in the autumn of 1983, brought about a steadying of business confidence which has continued since. Confidence has subsequently been boosted by progress in the discussions between the United Kingdom and The People's Republic of China on the constitutional future of Hong Kong. This sentiment rests on the general expectation that the final form of the agreement will embody assured recognition of Hong Kong's distinctive needs. Greater overseas investment in Hong Kong during 1983 indicates how the territory's prospects are now perceived by its growing community of international investors, both individual and corporate. Your Bank shares this confidence and looks forward to promoting the economy of the territory, not only in its home base, but through our worldwide network.

## New Headquarters

Work on our new headquarters building, in Queen's Road Central, has settled down to a smooth and rapid routine of construction, and we can now look forward to the first phase of occupation, in July 1985, starting with the banking hall.

## Commercial Banking

Although we faced intensifying competition and difficult trading conditions in all our



Mr M G R Sandberg, CBE, Chairman

main operating areas, the results nonetheless show that our operations remain strong. Fortunately by the standards of other leading banking groups around the world our exposure to the difficulties of sovereign debt is comparatively small.

The Hang Seng Bank has again produced good results and undertook a significant role in supporting industrial sectors in a difficult period. Our Area Office China was closely involved in the increasing commerce between Hong Kong and The People's Republic of China, and our close association with China over more than a century is an established asset.

Marine Midland Bank reported income growth of 16.2 per cent which brought profits in 1983 to just over US\$100 million; our partnership constitutes a source of real strength to both banks. The British Bank of the Middle East again reported increased results, despite the drop in Middle East oil revenues and region-wide political problems.

Hongkong Bank opened further branches in various centres, as far apart as Valparaiso and Leeds. The representative office in Taiwan has now been upgraded to full branch status.

In the first half of 1984 we plan to open a representative office in Stockholm, the first permanent presence for the group in Scandinavia.

## Merchant Banking

Our merchant banking operations had a difficult year, affected both by adverse conditions in the world markets and by some local problems. These adversely affected the performance of Wardley Limited in Hong Kong in the first half of the year. However, developments in the second half of the year have struck a more positive note. Wardley Australia had a particularly good year. Wardley Middle East and Equator Bank Ltd continued to expand their operations and contacts in the markets of the Middle East and independent Africa respectively.

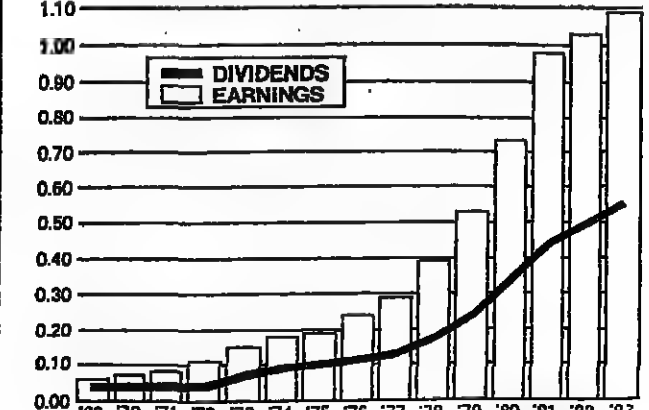
## Finance and Investment

Grenville Transportation Holdings Ltd, which holds our transportation portfolio, produced very satisfactory results. Our hire-purchase and finance companies in Hong Kong, Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore and the Middle East all reported satisfactory results.

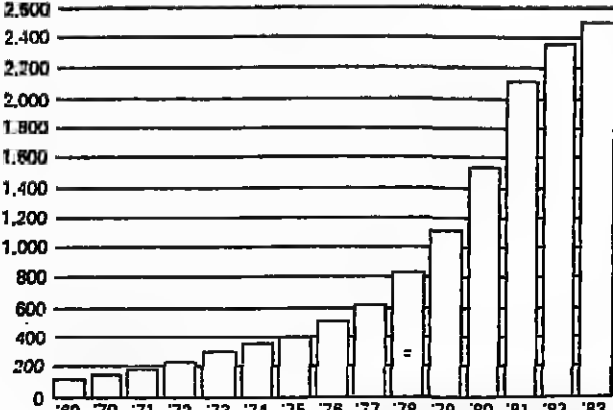
## Insurance

The Carlingford and Gibbs Insurance Groups continued their expansion, both geographically and in services. The cross-marketing of group capabilities is gaining wider recognition for the group's insurance strength.

## DIVIDENDS &amp; EARNINGS



## PROFIT GROWTH



## SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS



| Main Results                  | 1983          | 1982          | 1983       |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
|                               | HK\$ millions | HK\$ millions | £ millions |
| Total Assets                  | 470,315       | 379,186       | 41,606     |
| Issued Capital                | 5,720         | 5,200         | 506        |
| Total Shareholders' Funds     | 19,586        | 15,606        | 1,733      |
| Group Profit                  | 2,492         | 2,357         | 221        |
| Transfers to Reserves         | 504           | 440           | 45         |
| Total Distribution            | 1,258         | 1,144         | 111        |
| Earnings per share (adjusted) | 1.09          | 1.03          | £          |
| Dividend per share            | 0.55          | 0.50          | 0.05       |



## Hongkong Bank

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation

Marine Midland Bank - Hongkong Bank of Canada  
The British Bank of the Middle East  
Hang Seng Bank Limited - Wardley Limited  
Wardley London Limited

Fast decisions. Worldwide.

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Offices in Birmingham, Edinburgh, Leeds and Manchester



**BELL'S**  
SCOTCH WHISKY  
**BELL'S**

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

# Leaders surge ahead

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, April 9. Dealings End, Today. Contango Day, April 30. Settlement Day, May 8  
\* Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

| FT - ACTUARIES INDICES |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| INDUSTRIAL GROUP       | 527.24 (521.75) |
| 500 SHARE INDEX        | 578.05 (573.96) |
| EARNINGS YIELD         | 9.61% (9.68%)   |
| DIVIDEND YIELD         | 4.17% (4.21%)   |
| P.E. RATIO (NET)       | 12.85 (12.75)   |
| ALL SHARE INDEX        | 532.18 (527.79) |
| DIVIDEND YIELD         | 4.35% (4.38%)   |

| 1983/84 |  | 1982/83 |  | 1981/82 |  | 1980/81 |  | 1979/80 |  | 1978/79 |  | 1977/78 |  | 1976/77 |  | 1975/76 |  | 1974/75 |  | 1973/74 |  | 1972/73 |  | 1971/72 |  | 1970/71 |  | 1969/70 |  | 1968/69 |  | 1967/68 |  | 1966/67 |  | 1965/66 |  | 1964/65 |  | 1963/64 |  | 1962/63 |  | 1961/62 |  | 1960/61 |  | 1959/60 |  | 1958/59 |  | 1957/58 |  | 1956/57 |  | 1955/56 |  | 1954/55 |  | 1953/54 |  | 1952/53 |  | 1951/52 |  | 1950/51 |  | 1949/50 |  | 1948/49 |  | 1947/48 |  | 1946/47 |  | 1945/46 |  | 1944/45 |  | 1943/44 |  | 1942/43 |  | 1941/42 |  | 1940/41 |  | 1939/40 |  | 1938/39 |  | 1937/38 |  | 1936/37 |  | 1935/36 |  | 1934/35 |  | 1933/34 |  | 1932/33 |  | 1931/32 |  | 1930/31 |  | 1929/30 |  | 1928/29 |  | 1927/28 |  | 1926/27 |  | 1925/26 |  | 1924/25 |  | 1923/24 |  | 1922/23 |  | 1921/22 |  | 1920/21 |  | 1919/20 |  | 1918/19 |  | 1917/18 |  | 1916/17 |  | 1915/16 |  | 1914/15 |  | 1913/14 |  | 1912/13 |  | 1911/12 |  | 1910/11 |  | 1909/10 |  | 1908/09 |  | 1907/08 |  | 1906/07 |  | 1905/06 |  | 1904/05 |  | 1903/04 |  | 1902/03 |  | 1901/02 |  | 1900/01 |  | 1899/00 |  | 1898/99 |  | 1897/98 |  | 1896/97 |  | 1895/96 |  | 1894/95 |  | 1893/94 |  | 1892/93 |  | 1891/92 |  | 1890/91 |  | 1889/90 |  | 1888/89 |  | 1887/88 |  | 1886/87 |  | 1885/86 |  | 1884/85 |  | 1883/84 |  | 1882/83 |  | 1881/82 |  | 1880/81 |  | 1879/80 |  | 1878/79 |  | 1877/78 |  | 1876/77 |  | 1875/76 |  | 1874/75 |  | 1873/74 |  | 1872/73 |  | 1871/72 |  | 1870/71 |  | 1869/70 |  | 1868/69 |  | 1867/68 |  | 1866/67 |  | 1865/66 |  | 1864/65 |  | 1863/64 |  | 1862/63 |  | 1861/62 |  | 1860/61 |  | 1859/60 |  | 1858/59 |  | 1857/58 |  | 1856/57 |  | 1855/56 |  | 1854/55 |  | 1853/54 |  | 1852/53 |  | 1851/52 |  | 1850/51 |  | 1849/50 |  | 1848/49 |  | 1847/48 |  | 1846/47 |  | 1845/46 |  | 1844/45 |  | 1843/44 |  | 1842/43 |  | 1841/42 |  | 1840/41 |  | 1839/40 |  | 1838/39 |  | 1837/38 |  | 1836/37 |  | 1835/36 |  | 1834/35 |  | 1833/34 |  | 1832/33 |  | 1831/32 |  | 1830/31 |  | 1829/30 |  | 1828/29 |  | 1827/28 |  | 1826/27 |  | 1825/26 |  | 1824/25 |  | 1823/24 |  | 1822/23 |  | 1821/22 |  | 1820/21 |  | 1819/20 |  | 1818/19 |  | 1817/18 |  | 1816/17 |  | 1815/16 |  | 1814/15 |  | 1813/14 |  | 1812/13 |  | 1811/12 |  | 1810/11 |  | 1809/10 |  | 1808/09 |  | 1807/08 |  | 1806/07 |  | 1805/06 |  | 1804/05 |  | 1803/04 |  | 1802/03 |  | 1801/02 |  | 1800/01 |  | 1799/00 |  | 1798/99 |  | 1797/98 |  | 1796/97 |  | 1795/96 |  | 1794/95 |  | 1793/94 |  | 1792/93 |  | 1791/92 |  | 1790/91 |  | 1789/90 |  | 1788/89 |  | 1787/88 |  | 1786/87 |  | 1785/86 |  | 1784/85 |  | 1783/84 |  | 1782/83 |  | 1781/82 |  | 1780/81 |  | 1779/80 |  | 1778/79 |  | 1777/78 |  | 1776/77 |  | 1775/76 |  | 1774/75 |  | 1773/74 |  | 1772/73 |  | 1771/72 |  | 1770/71 |  | 1769/70 |  | 1768/69 |  | 1767/68 |  | 1766/67 |  | 1765/66 |  | 1764/65 |  | 1763/64 |  | 1762/63 |  | 1761/62 |  | 1760/61 |  | 1759/60 |  | 1758/59 |  | 1757/58 |  | 1756/57 |  | 1755/56 |  | 1754/55 |  | 1753/54 |  | 1752/53 |  | 1751/52 |  | 1750/51 |  | 1749/50 |  | 1748/49 |  | 1747/48 |  | 1746/47 |  | 1745/46 |  | 1744/45 |  | 1743/44 |  | 1742/43 |  | 1741/42 |  | 1740/41 |  | 1739/40 |  | 1738/39 |  | 1737/38 |  | 1736/37 |  | 1735/36 |  | 1734/35 |  | 1733/34 |  | 1732/33 |  | 1731/32 |  | 1730/31 |  | 1729/30 |  | 1728/29 |  | 1727/28 |  | 1726/27 |  | 1725/26 |  | 1724/25 |  | 1723/24 |  | 1722/23 |  | 1721/22 |  | 1720/21 |  | 1719/20 |  | 1718/19 |  | 1717/18 |  | 1716/17 |  | 1715/16 |  | 1714/15 |  | 1713/14 |  | 1712/13 |  | 1711/12 |  | 1710/11 |  | 1709/10 |  | 1708/09 |  | 1707/08 |  | 1706/07 |  | 1705/06 |  | 1704/05 |  | 1703/04 |  | 1702/03 |  | 1701/02 |  | 1700/01 |  | 1699/00 |  | 1698/99 |  | 1697/98 |  | 1696/97 |  | 1695/96 |  | 1694/95 |  | 1693/94 |  | 1692/93 |  | 1691/92 |  | 1690/91 |  | 1689/90 |  | 1688/89 |  | 1687/88 |  | 1686/87 |  | 1685/86 |  | 1684/85 |  | 1683/84 |  | 1682/83 |  | 1681/82 |  | 1680/81 |  | 1679/80 |  | 1678/79 |  | 1677/78 |  | 1676/77 |  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| 1367/68 |  | 1366/67 |  | 1365/66 |  | 1364/65 |  | 1363/64 |  | 1362/63 |  | 1361/62 |  | 1360/61 |  | 1359/60 |  | 1358/59 |  | 1357/58 |  | 1356/57 |  | 1355/56 |  | 1354/55 |  | 1353/54 |  | 1352/53 |  | 1351/52 |  | 1350/51 |  | 1349/50 |  | 1348/49 |  | 1347/48 |  | 1346/47 |  | 1345/46 |  | 1344/45 |  | 1343/44 |  | 1342/43 |  | 1341/42 |  | 1340/41 |  | 1339/40 |  | 1338/39 |  | 1337/38 |  | 1336/37 |  | 1335/36 |  | 1334/35 |  | 1333/34 |  | 1332/33 |  | 1331/32 |  | 1330/31 |  | 1329/30 |  | 1328/29 |  | 1327/28 |  | 1326/27 |  | 1325/26 |  | 1324/25 |  | 1323/24 |  | 1322/23 |  | 1321/22 |  | 1320/21 |  | 1319/20 |  | 1318/19 |  | 1317/18 |  | 1316/17 |  | 1315/16 |  | 1314/15 |  | 1313/14 |  | 1312/13 |  | 1311/12 |  | 1310/11 |  | 1309/10 |  | 1308/09 |  | 1307/08 |  | 1306/07 |  | 1305/06 |  | 1304/05 |  | 1303/04 |  | 1302/03 |  | 1301/02 |  | 1300/01 |  | 1299/00 |  | 1298/99 |  | 1297/98 |  | 1296/97 |  | 1295/96 |  | 1294/95 |  | 1293/94 |  | 1292/93 |  | 1291/92 |  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## ICI earnings leap but fear lingers

By William Kay, City Editor

The City's recent reprimands over alleged doomsaying by Mr John Harvey-Jones, the chairman of ICI, were swept away yesterday when the chemicals company produced first-quarter profits

well in excess of most analysts' guesses. But behind the smiles lay the lingering fear that the top of the chemical cycle may be nearly upon us.

Sales rose by only 5 per cent, to £2.37 billion, and a fifth of that rise came from currency

effects. But the £350m extra sales surged through to a £117m leap in profits to £245m. After a virtually unchanged depreciation charge of £107m, net earnings galloped ahead from 12.3p a share to 23.9p.

Mr Harvey-Jones reports: "All major business sectors operated profitably."

The star performers were pharmaceuticals and agricultural chemicals. ICI shares rose 12p to 618p after 624p. They have been 650p this year.

## Vickers' cash claim continues

The incredibly slow wheels of the European Commission of Human Rights have turned another notch. Sir Richard Vickers, reported as the company's yearly meeting yesterday, Vickers has claimed for several years that it was not adequately compensated for the nationalization of shipbuilding assets and a share of BAC, now part of British Aerospace. It wants another £50m for the BAC stake alone.

Sir Richard told shareholders that the European Commission had adopted a confidential report. This would now go to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of European Court of Human Rights, when it would be published.

On results, Sir Richard said: "The financial position of the first quarter shows an encouraging improvement compared with 1983."

### In brief

**STEWART GROUP:** Six months to December 31, 1983. Figures in £000. Turnover 256 (473). Pretax profit 236 (375). EPS - basic 0.29p (0.44p), diluted 0.23p (0.33p).

The company recently completed the acquisition of the freehold interest in 9/15 Sackville Street, London W1, which

is entirely let to Hambro Life Assurance.

**BRITISH ASSETS TRUST:** Six months to March 31. Quarterly dividend 1.4p. Shareholders can now expect a total for the year of not less than 5.50p per share (4.90p). Figures in £000. Income 4,366 (3,700). Pretax revenue 4,016 (3,312) after interest and expenses 350 (388). Tax 1,554 (1,397). EPS 2.47p (1.9p). NAV 204.4p (185).

**JERSEY GAS COMPANY:** Chairman has written to shareholders to advise them of plans for removal of storage facilities for butane to a safer situation.

The cost of the move will be about £2.5m. The scheme will require consent of shareholders and the liberalization of a 1918 law.

**BORDER BREWERIES (WREXHAM):** The offers by Marston, Thompson and Evershed have become unconditional in all respects and the proposals to acquire the outstanding Border debenture stock have been approved and are binding on all debenture stock holders.

Marston has acquired or agreed to acquire a total of 5,226,512 border ordinary shares (97.29 per cent of the issued ordinary shares) and 111,068 Border preferred shares (74.04 per cent).

**WIRE AND PLASTIC PRODUCTS:** Final 1.1p, mak-

ing 2.1p (1.9p) for 1983. Figures in £000. Turnover 3,350 (2,867). Pretax profit 270 (222). EPS 4.15p (3.01p).

The company suffered from business failures among customers and there will be a provision for bad and doubtful debts of nearly £33,000 (under £5,000). The rationalization of the companies within the group is now virtually complete. The higher turnover has been achieved with the same workforce.

**ESTATE AND AGENCY HOLDINGS:** Dividend 3p (2p) for year 1983. Gross rental income £939,438 (£952,673). Pretax profits £417,235 (£323,769). EPS 4.62p (3.75p). Reduced gross rental income for 1983 reflects the continuing sale of properties.

**UNITED WIRE GROUP:** Half year to March 31. Dividend 2.2p (same). Figures in £000. Turnover 10,542 (9,033). Pretax profit 842 (171). EPS 6.41p (1.14p). The continued improvement in the level of profits results from higher sales in all the group's companies.

**RIO TINTO-ZINC:** Sir Anthony Tuke, the chairman, says in his annual report that a company can only be bound by the laws of the countries in which it operates and not by United Nations resolutions, unless they are made law. He was replying to persistent criticism of RTZ's investment in the Rossing uranium mine in Namibia.

**WATMOUGHS (HOLDINGS):** The chairman, Mr P. G. Walker, told shareholders at an annual meeting that the year has commenced fully in accordance with company's expectations. Turnover for the first three months to March 31, 1984, is more than 15 per cent higher than the same period last year.

Watmoughs has entered into an agreement to purchase for cash the share capital of the Heron Press (Group).

**TOYE AND COMPANY:** The chairman, Mr Bryan Toye, says in annual statement "at the time of writing I am delighted to say that there appears to be a continued upturn in inquiries received leading to order books in some areas becoming more satisfactorily extended. Sales to date are running at approx 10 per cent above the same period for last year."

## Suter lifts stake in Francis

By Jonathan Clare

Suter, the refrigeration and hairdressing equipment company run by Mr David Abell, has increased its stake in Francis Industries to more than 35 per cent.

Suter's £14.4m bid for Francis, which makes metal drums and gearbox parts, is being strongly contested and a profits forecast for the current year is likely to be published today.

Suter's stake was increased by buying in the market at the bid price of 127p by Britannic Syndicate, part of Robert Fleming Group which advises Suter. The Takeover Panel has already ruled that Britannic is acting in concert with Suter.

Suter said last week when it raised its offer by 21m that it would not increase it further. It added on Wednesday that a higher offer would not be forthcoming even if there was a recommendation from the Francis Board.

A revised offer expected next week is likely to be more critical than the first.

Fleming expects to give little credence to the profits forecast. "We think it is rather early in the year for a firm forecast," said a spokesman.

Although Suter has said the bid will not be increased it has not limited the time it will be open. However, under takeover rules it must close 60 days from the date of the first bid terms.

## Base Lending Rates

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| ABN Bank          | 8 1/2% |
| Barclays          | 8 1/2% |
| BCCI              | 8 1/2% |
| Citibank Savings  | 9 1/2% |
| Consolidated Crds | 8 1/2% |
| Continental Trust | 8 1/2% |
| C. Hoare & Co.    | 8 1/2% |
| Lloyds Bank       | 8 1/2% |
| Midland Bank      | 8 1/2% |
| Nat Westminster   | 8 1/2% |
| TSB               | 8 1/2% |
| Williams & Glyn's | 8 1/2% |

† Mortgage Rate Rate  
1 day deposits on basis of tender  
Annual rate, 90% season and over 7 1/2%

## Turnover reaches £1,500 m ...workload at a record level.

### George Wimpey PLC Preliminary Statement of Consolidated Financial Results (unaudited) for the year ended 31 December 1983.

|  | 1983<br>£m    | 1982<br>£m    |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Turnover:                                    |               |               |
| Work carried out by the Group                | 1393.0        | 1128.0        |
| Attributable share of Associates work        | 87.0          | 112.0         |
|  | <b>1480.0</b> | <b>1240.0</b> |
| Operating Profit of the Group                | 55.8          | 55.7          |
| Exceptional items                            | 42.1          | —             |
| profits                                      | (41.7)        | 0.4           |
| losses                                       |               |               |
| Share of profits less losses of Associates   | (0.1)         | 0.8           |
| Interest — net payable                       | 56.1          | 56.5          |
|  | (11.1)        | (10.8)        |
| Profit before Taxation                       | 45.0          | 45.7          |
| Taxation                                     | (7.0)         | (7.4)         |
| Profit after Taxation                        | 38.0          | 38.3          |
| Minority interests                           | 0.9           | (0.3)         |
| Profit after Taxation and Minorities         | 37.1          | 38.6          |
| Extraordinary item — Deferred Tax            | (11.2)        | —             |
| Profit attributable to Ordinary Shareholders | 25.9          | 38.6          |
| Dividends                                    | 8.6           | 7.7           |
| Retained Profit for the Year                 | <b>17.3</b>   | <b>30.9</b>   |

### DIVIDENDS

The directors recommend a final dividend of 2.20p per share (1.95p) totalling £5,195,200 (£5,004,000) which, if approved, will be paid on 2 July 1984 to all shareholders on the register at 1 June 1984. This dividend, together with the interim dividend of 0.85p per share declared in September 1983 brings the total dividend in respect of 1983 to 3.05p per share (2.73p) totalling £8,588,800 (£7,680,000).

\*Restated to reflect a 1 for 10 capitalisation issue of shares in 1983.

### EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

In February 1984, shareholders were informed of profits arising from a major programme of partly-owned property investment disposals and the inclusion of exceptional losses in the accounts for 1983.

The accounts for 1983 include exceptional profits of £42.1 million realised on the disposal of the Group's interests in Euston Centre Properties PLC and eight other property companies. As a result of these disposals revaluation reserves of £41.5 million have been realised.

The exceptional losses arise from three unrelated situations.

(a) Losses incurred on a contract to construct a hydro-electric scheme in Swaziland amount to £3.6 million. Both the ground conditions and eventual design were markedly different from those in the tender documents and substantial claims have been lodged. These are being vigorously pursued but are not anticipated in the accounts.

(b) A joint-venture high-rise residential property development in central Hong Kong has ceased due to the considerable reduction in property

values there. The Group has honoured its financial obligations and written off its original investment, resulting in a loss of £3.2 million. The Group has renegotiated its position so that, depending on the extent to which property values in Hong Kong recover, it may recoup some of the loss.

(c) The Group has a 49% interest in an electrical and mechanical engineering company in Saudi Arabia which is in financial difficulty and is being supported by its shareholders. Losses of £1.8 million have been incurred on contracts and a further £6.5 million on overheads and the costs of reducing the company's activities. The directors believe that the losses have now been contained and adequate provisions made. The outcome will remain uncertain until contracts are completed and contractual claims settled.

### POST BALANCE SHEET EVENT

In January 1984, the Group disposed of half its investment in The Oldham Estate Company PLC for £17 million and has granted the purchaser an option to acquire the balance of its holding for a consideration of £17.8 million, in aggregate £34.8 million. The book value of the entire holding in the 1983 accounts was £32.6 million compared with the original cost of £23,000. As a result, a profit of £17 million will be realised in 1984 and, if the option is exercised, £17.8 million in 1985.

Deferred taxation on the 1984 Oldham profit has been deducted from the investment revaluation reserve.

### The Chairman and Chief Executive, Mr Cliff Chetwood, comments:

"I am pleased to report that, despite many difficulties and the continuing low economic activity in the UK, the Group has maintained its operating profit at £55.8 million compared with £55.7 million in the previous year. This is a good result in the circumstances. The Group's financial position remains strong."

The Wimpey Group is one of the world's leading construction organisations. We are currently carrying out more than 1,000 contracts worldwide, ranging from small site investigation and surfacing jobs to complex multi-million pound building, civil, mechanical, electrical, process and offshore engineering projects. In addition, we are one of the top ten property developers in the UK, with a substantial portfolio.

### Housing

In the UK, I am heartened by our improved private housing performance. In the past two years new attractive house designs have been introduced to very high quality and safety standards. Investment in land has been directed at more but smaller estates and imaginative marketing measures introduced. Results started to improve in 1982. The upward trend has continued during 1983 when 9,330 house sales were legally completed, over 2,000 more than in 1981.

Wimpey's well established reputation for quality was reinforced with the award — yet again — of more National House Building Council "Pride in the Job" awards for quality of construction than any other builder. One NHBC report described us as "the builder by whose standard others are judged".

The Group policy has always been to give purchasers the best possible value for money, and the home-buying package has been progressively modified in the light of market research. Purchasers have the option to dispense with the whole or part of the package for a corresponding discounted price, although no less than 95% of them choose the package deal as against the basic house. First time buyers, moreover, are relieved of legal fees, stamp duty and the mortgage survey fee.

### Energy and Process Engineering

We have restructured to offer a total capability in the sectors of energy and process engineering. Wimpey Engineering is now concentrating on the onshore process plant industry, while Wimpey Offshore Engineers and Constructors has been established to offer comprehensive engineering services to the international offshore oil and gas industries. Wimpey, our navigation services company, has just had its success in expanding its overseas business recognised by The Queen's Award for Export Achievement. I believe all these companies, operating in high technology areas, will successfully build on our past achievements in these activities.

### Overseas

Although competition for contracting work overseas continues to be intense, we have secured important new contracts including a £147-million hospital in Oman. In Hong Kong, good progress is being achieved on the management contract for the headquarters of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. We have the capability successfully to pursue contracts such as these, and will continue to do so with vigour.

### United States

I am particularly pleased with the progress we have made in the United States. Our land development and home-building activity in Texas performed well with 850 house sales last year. We have also established a significant presence in the Californian home-building market with the acquisition of Morrison Homes, one of the West Coast's larger home-building companies.

### Property Development and Investment

The Group's property portfolio has been very rewarding over the years; nonetheless, partial ownership can inhibit effective management and severely restrict the marketability of the investments concerned. The Board has held the view for some time that, in general, Wimpey should conduct its property businesses either without equity partners or in joint ventures in which we can participate more actively in direction and management. Accordingly, during the year, holdings in associate companies and investments in the UK were rationalised, as previously announced.

Elsewhere during the year, our wholly-owned investment programme was strengthened and net rental income rose by £2.3 million to £3.8 million, while rent reviews currently under way may further increase income during 1984.

### Outlook

I believe there is ample scope to build on the Group's underlying financial strength and strong position in a number of markets. Although recent organisational and management changes will take time to bear fruit, I am convinced that we are now set on the right course. Much depends on the prevailing economic circumstances both in the UK and overseas and, while some of our markets are reasonably buoyant, we are still feeling the effects of the worldwide recession in a number of areas.

Nevertheless, our workload is at a record level and I am confident in our capability to respond to the opportunities that will undoubtedly arise."

### UNAUDITED SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL DATA

| Turnover of the Group and Share of Associates | 1983<br>£m    | 1982<br>£m    |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| United Kingdom                                | 822.0         | 716.0         |
| North America                                 | 231.0         | 180.0         |
| Near and Middle East                          | 176.0         | 148.0         |
| Elsewhere                                     | 251.0         | 196.0         |
|   | <b>1480.0</b> | <b>1240.0</b> |
| Abridged Balance Sheet                        |               |               |
| Tangible Assets                               | 290.8         | 260.1         |
| Investments                                   | 63.6          | 112.6         |
| Work in Progress and Stocks                   | 354.4         | 372.7         |
| Net Debtor/(Creditor)                         | 471.0         | 410.9         |
| (Excluding Finance) — Note (a)                | (160.6)       | (153.8)       |
| Cash and bank balances                        | 33.3          | 33.1          |
| Assets Employed                               | <b>689.1</b>  | <b>662.8</b>  |
| Shareholders' Funds                           | 476.4         | 506.3         |
| Borrowings                                    | 183.1         | 147.7         |
| Deferred Tax                                  | 23.9          | 6.0           |
| Minority Interests                            | 5.7           | 2.8           |
|   | <b>689.1</b>  | <b>662.8</b>  |
| Borrowings Less Cash                          | 149.8         | 114.6         |
| As % of Shareholders' Funds                   | 31.1%         | 23%           |
| Earnings Per Share — Note (b)                 | 13.2p         | 13.7p         |
| Dividends Per Share                           | 3.05p         | 2.73p         |
| Shareholders' Funds Per Share                 | 169p          | 180p          |

Notes:  
(a) Debtors include £90.5 million outstanding in respect of the Group's interests in Euston Centre Properties PLC which has been received.  
(b) 1982 data per share has been restated to reflect a 1 for 10 capitalisation issue of shares in 1983.

The Annual Report will be posted to all shareholders in late May. If you would like a copy, please send the coupon.

To: Corporate Relations Department, George Wimpey PLC, Hammersmith Grove, London W6 7EN.

Please send me your 1983 Annual Report

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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For further information, do not hesitate to contact Richard Chetwood A.R.I.C.S. Estates and Valuation Officer Newark District Council, Ketham Hall, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG24 6JZ. Tel: 0536 705111

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TWO SIDES TO COMPARE..

## WATMOUGHS (HOLDINGS) PLC

Another record year  
1 for 5 scrip issue

|                    | 1983          | 1982          | Increase |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| Group turnover     | £22.5 million | £21.0 million | 7%       |
| Profit before tax  | £2.1 million  | £1.8 million  | 16%      |
| Earnings per share | 25.27p        | 21.94p        | 15%      |
| Dividend per share | 6.25p         | 5.21p*        | 20%      |

\*Adjusted for the increased capital (1983 scrip issue — 1 for 5)

Expansion of product range continues

\* Additional gravure printing contracts obtained from mail order, travel, cosmetic, horticultural and publishing clients.

\* Five new magazine contracts commence production in 1984.

\* Security printing interests are growing rapidly.

\* Packaging has attracted additional business from leading manufacturers of consumer goods.

We believe that further progress can be made in 1984 in all subsidiary companies in the group.

Annual report available from the Secretary, Idle, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD10 8NL

## Clive Discount Holdings PLC

Results for the year ended 31st March 1984

|  | 1984<br>£'000 | 1983<br>£'000 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| ■ Profits at £1.26m  |               |               |
| Consolidated profit for the year after rebate, taxation, transfer to contingencies reserve and write-off of goodwill | 1,260         | 1,850         |
| Dividends  | 904           | 734           |
| ■ Dividend up 12.5%  |               |               |
| Transfer to Capital Reserve  | 356           | 1,116         |
| ■ Shareholders' Funds increase 18% to £9.5m  |               |               |
| Balance brought forward  | 2,000         | 1,112         |
| Balance carried forward  | 2,356         | 2,000         |

■ Current Assets at record £436m

The above results are an abridged version of the company's full accounts which carry an unqualified auditors' report and which have not yet been filed with the Registrar of Companies.

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## APPOINTMENTS

## Partners named at Kitcat

Kitcat & Aitken: Mr Carl M. MacCarthy, Mr M. Bruce Jones and Mr Richard A. Ratner are being taken into partnership from April 30.

Adam & Company: Mr James T. Laurensen, a non-executive director, has been appointed deputy chairman with executive responsibilities. Mr Laurensen, who was until 1983 a director of Ivory & Sims, will continue as managing director of Cockburn Taylor Holdings.

M. W. Marshall (Sterling): Mr David Froggatt has joined the board.

The Royds Advertising Group: Mr Tony Silman has been appointed as group company secretary and Miss Nancy Palmer as group personnel coordinator, a newly-created post.

The 600 Group: Mr Alex Masters has joined the board as a non-executive director. E. T. Sutherland & Son: Mr Ian Hendriks has been made a non-executive director.

John Walker & Sons: Mr J. Stephen Campbell has been appointed a director. He will also continue to act as company secretary.

Time Assurance Society: Mr John D. Nettleton has become chairman.

John Crowther Group: Mr Elio Stocchere has been appointed managing director. He was previously sales director. Mr Stocchere takes over from Mr Trevor Barker, who continues as chairman of the group.

Mr John Ray, finance director, has additionally been appointed assistant to the chairman with responsibility for development of the company's branded yarns and wools.

Robert Moss: Mr Dennis R. Stringer has joined the board as group marketing director.

Acrow (Engineers): Mr Colin Stapleton has been appointed as managing director.

Chesbrough-Pond's: Mr Paul J. Crotty will, with effect from May 1, become director - sales and marketing for the cosmetics and fragrances division. Mr John R. Stratford, who also joins on May 1, is to become director of business development.

Danks Gownton: Mr Jack Stone has been appointed a director and elected chairman.

As the debate on regional policy grows Ronald Faux reports on a success story north of the border

# How the SDA nurtured high technology in silicon glen

It is easy to sniff a confident air in Scotland these days. Although the first into the economic doldrums, Scotland now promises to escape ahead of other areas which, historically, have been more resilient.

North Sea oil has generated a huge spin-off in services and expertise. Even though much of this has centred on subsidiaries of multinational and foreign companies, some at least will survive long after the oil fields have been emptied.

What may prove even more important in the long run, oil spurred a political dynamic for devolution which may have stopped short of a Scottish Assembly, but probably led directly to heightened autonomy via the Scottish Office and the creation of a powerful restructuring force in the shape of the Scottish Development Agency.

English regions left as supplicants for general regional aid may well envy Scotland's direct voice in the Cabinet, which has helped protect the Ravenscraig steelworks and the Scott Lithgow yard on the lower Clyde, as well as Scotland's high-level decision-making on local capital spending and its strong powers to promote industry and development in a coordinated policy of its own.

## But the battle to turn round its industry is still to be won

The SDA may well be the most valuable product of the drive for devolution. In three years, it has proved the main coordinating arm of government in acting as a catalyst for change both in industry and the environment for industry and has scored vital successes in attracting new high technology industries north of the border.

Now it is trying to take those industries beyond the status of more manufacturing arms of multinational companies. Increasingly, Scotland is building a base that covers the full range of activity from research and development through to the final product, harnessing the strength of universities and traditional professional skills to make Scottish factories less vulnerable as the distant offspring of parent companies whose hearts lie elsewhere.

Dr George Mathewson, the SDA's chief executive, has made a straightforward response to the decline of traditional industries: "Unless you create an alternative industrial base, you are dead. We have to rebuild our strengths and get jobs in industries we are good at."

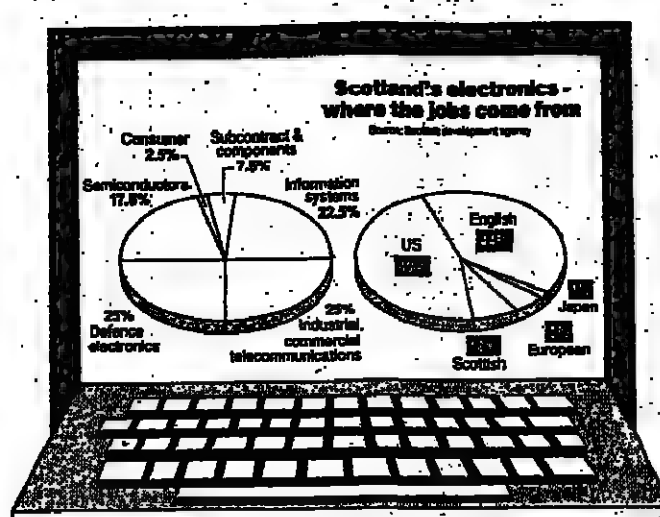
Last month alone, Scotland netted a £100m investment in semi-conductors by National Semiconductor at Greenock and another £30m factory to be built by Shin-Etsu Handotai, the Japanese producer of semiconductor silicon, at Livingston.

The latter was a classic case of the SDA at work. Shin-Etsu Handotai had inquired about a site somewhere in Britain as a European base, among others with the SDA, but its application form was percolating through the procedures of the Department of Trade and Industry in London.

When Dr Ian Robertson, director of Locate in Scotland, the SDA arm operated jointly with the Scottish Economic Planning Department, discovered that the Japanese company was "on the boil", that its board had fully approved the decision to invest in Britain, he caught the next aeroplane to Tokyo to conduct immediate talks. Belying the image of lengthy Oriental negotiation, a complete deal was prepared within a week and signed by the Japanese and the SDA nine days later.

The SDA may not offer any more than the usual government supplied incentives for persuading industrialists to move to places they might not otherwise choose but, like the co-ordinating bodies set up to aid former steel towns, it gains from being able to marshal all the help behind one door.

The SDA also has direct financial links with 723 Scottish companies, although it now achieves full ownership. It owns and administers more than 1,000 industrial units and has formed a technology transfer group to help Scottish com-



panies license or make joint ventures for new products with overseas companies. It invested £8m in large and a growing £4m in small companies last year.

But its heaviest, direct spending goes into improving the environment through land reclamation and development projects for derelict industrial areas on the principle that footloose companies with the world tugging at their sleeves will not be attracted to shabby locations that smack of failure. Last year the cumulative value of such schemes reached £163m and the SDA is backing a rising number of reclamation projects.

The results, though still patchy, are beginning to show. Some 28 American electronics groups have either chosen or short-listed Scotland for new facilities and expansion. The latest figures for inward investment transactions show 45 projects involving £186m have been finalized. And although the United States remains the biggest source of foreign capital, the SDA has now begun to home in on the potential of growing Japanese interest.

The battle to turn round Scotland's industry is still to be won however. The famous

silicon glen (stretching west from Fife through the belt of central Scotland), the oil industry construction yards and a rash of new building represent a new prosperous economy.

The other economy of heavy engineering, steel, coalmining and shipbuilding that made Scotland the workshop of the empire still suffers the traumas of contraction and dissolution. The problem of unemployment against a background of change and decay of urban communities remains unresolved.

New technology can provide a new future but cannot absorb the numbers rejected by the old, labour-intensive industries. Even so, the electronics industry has grown to become a bigger employer than shipbuilding, coalmining or steel, which, where they have survived, are increasingly themselves taking on new techniques with smaller, more flexible workforces.

The worst industrial news north of the border has probably now broken, leaving Scotland with the benefit, in a sense, of having lost out before industrial decline seemed universal and inevitable. There are still fears that BL's Bathgate works could announce substan-

tial redundancies and there are now renewed doubts over the future of Ravenscraig. But much of what is left of the old Scottish industry is now slimmed down, rationalized and, in some sectors, re-equipped to compete from a smaller base as part of a broader and better balanced economy.

The main hopes for throwing off Scotland's image as a depressed outlying region once and for all still lie mainly with electronics and computer-based industries. Here there are signs that Scotland has begun to foster an accelerating momentum of its own quite different from the traditional product of expensive Whitehall-based regional policies that scatter a random series of grant-aided marginal factories and sub-offices round the periphery of Britain.

A recent comparison of Scotland, the San Francisco Bay area and the South-east of England showed Scotland emerging as a centre for the growth of new technology based particularly on small companies. Scotland led silicon valley in the employment of research and development staff and there were notably closer links with local universities as a source of product innovation.

Other reports suggest Scottish people are more at home with high technology appliances than the rest of the United Kingdom and that Scotland is ahead of the rest of the United Kingdom (outside London) in computer usage.

The electronics industry may not be a newcomer. Ferranti opened its plant in Edinburgh during the last war. But growth in recent years has been phenomenal. More than 200 companies provide 40,000 jobs with an investment of £500m.

The newly announced Shin-Etsu Handotai and National Semiconductor factories will be of special significance in consolidating Scotland's position as the leading semi-conductor producer in Europe. Already Scotland satisfies 21 per cent of

European needs and with projects in the pipeline the SDA calculates this could rise to 50 per cent.

Silicon glen has already reached the point at which the snowball effect takes over as one or two leading companies in the same specialist field attract others. Health care and biotechnology could follow the same route. Health care products already employ 7,000 people in 60 companies. Although many of the factories are mere outposts of drug companies, again several leading manufacturing names have now become involved in research with Scottish universities and teaching hospitals.

This process of tying manufacturing with local research and services bodes well. Raw assembly work is often vulnerable to recession or changing corporate plans, but once Scottish companies or subsidiaries of foreign companies are tied to crucial stages of product development, they are more secure and have more spin-off effects in the surrounding economy.

This exciting potential transformation of the Scottish economy can provide arguments for both sides of the current debate over regional policy. Certainly, the Scottish

## Health care and biotechnology could take the same route

Office and the SDA have spent public money and used central financial aids. They might not have succeeded otherwise.

But in Scotland this money may have seeded a revolution rather than merely provided an expensive palliative and, if this proves to be the case, it will be because local interests have come together to identify the areas where Scotland might excel rather than merely take part, they have in effect formed a business plan for their country (read English region) and have harnessed all parts of the community, from capital to academics, in a plan to develop new growth points rather than merely plunk jobs in hard-pressed areas.

Perhaps the only true answer to the problems of the regions is to make them centres in their own right again.

## Profits from Laporte up by half

More export sales, an increasing contribution from newly-acquired companies and proceeds from last year's rights issue helped Laporte Industries (Holdings) increase profits by more than half last year.

The chemical company, which announced last week that it was to sell its titanium dioxide business to SCM Corporation for up to £90m, made £30.4m against £20.1m in 1983.

Laporte raised £20m from its rights issue in the second half of last year which, together with a net inflow of cash of £8m, helped reduce borrowings to £7m.

The total dividend for the year has been increased by 20 per cent to 10.5p. There is also a one-for-two scrip issue.

Interim, the joint venture with Solvay and the world's biggest active oxygen company, contributed £13.2m to group results, up from £10.1m.

## In brief

● **TELEPHONE RENTALS:** Year 1983. Final 3.75p (3p), making 5.75p (5p). Figures in 2000: Turnover 57,590 (£7,377). Pre tax profit 14,224 (£1,726). EPS 13.67p (9.39p).

● **JAMES NEILL (HOLDINGS):** Final 1p, making 2p (nil) for 1983. Figs in 2000. Turnover 48,187 (£4,961). Operating profit 1,589 (£23). Pre tax profit 198 (loss 574). Loss per share 0.3p (4p).

● **BIDDLE HOLDINGS:** Final 7.6p making 10p (same) for 1983. Figures in 2000. Turnover 18,965 (£10,294). Pre-tax profit 1,247 (£1,712). EPS 18.9p (23.3p). The second half was better than anticipated at the time of the interim statement, because of improved results from Beamie Lids.

● **HAROLD PERRY MOTORS:** Final 2.5p, making 4p (3.75) for 1983. Figures in 2000. Turnover 122,587 (£100,774). Pre-tax profit 3,404 (£3,160). EPS 10.1p (12.6p).

● **WEST GROUP** will repay the outstanding £314,950 nominal of the 7 1/4% debenture stock 1984/89 at par on July 26.

● **NORMAN HAVI:** Final 2.315p, making 3.565p (3.1p) for 1983. Figures in 2000. Turnover 5,627 (£4,739). Pre-tax profit 605 (351). Tax 272 (47). EPS 8.3p (7.6).

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## TENNIS: CURREN BENEFITS FROM BREATHERS IN DALLAS

**By Pat Butcher**

● An IOC spokesman said today that the commission would make no ruling on whether the three-year "naturalization" law - which prohibits athletes competing in the Olympics for three years after a change of citizenship - would be waived. Instead the commission will make a series of recommendations to the IOC who will make a decision at their next meeting here between May 29-30.

**From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, Dallas**

Dickson made the reasonable comment that he was respecting

In the previous day's matches Tim Mayotte beat Tomas Smid ("I got too tired to win") and an unusually aggressive Eliot Teltscher beat Henrik Sundstrom -



total of 12 hours and 1 minutes and meant that eight men were left to contest the first prize of about £107,000. The pairings were John McEnroe v Gerulaitis, Curren v Johan Kriek, Jimmy Arias v Teltsche and Mayotte v Jimmy Connors.

## By Bryan Stiles

Colin Jones, Britain's world welterweight championship contender, will meet a top American at the Afan Lido, Aberavon, just ten miles from his home, on June 13.

**By Gerald Davies**

"One national referee assessor, after one Test match found nothing wrong with my refereeing. "The only complaint, and he was quite serious, came when he asked did I really, really, find it necessary to run

In line with many others, he believes a revision of the laws is long overdue. Echoing what Dick Greenwood, the English coach, says, he believes that the laws ought to reflect more how the game is being played, and how the players want to play it.

### Schools rugby by Michael Stevenson

England, admittedly after the long journey to St Nazaire last Saturday, had scraped home 14-12, through a late try by their left wing, Bennett; once again though not over-blessed with quality possession. England were well-served by their promising centres, Carling and Priestley, who have separately contributed so much to the success of Seaberg and Bradford Grammar School and jointly to that of Yorkshire schools.

Like their seniors and unlike the

Hoping that the subjective assessment of a probable winner will not cause universal gnashing of teeth, it seems likely that the winners would come from Sedburgh, Millfield or West Park. Despite their herculean feat in winning both the Roehampton Sevens and the Preston Festival in quick succession West Park might find it hard to prevent Millfield and Sedburgh (presuming that they have not met earlier) from contesting the final.

### Second division

**RUGBY LEAGUE**  
SECOND DIVISION: Doncaster v Workington  
(8.30)  
**CRICKET**

**CROQUET:** Roehampton Weekend.  
**FENCING:** RAF Championships (Spring Series)

**TENNIS:** British Junior Hardcourt Championships 16 and Under (at Edgbaston, 9.30am).  
**SNOOKER:** World Professional Championships (at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, 2 and 7pm).

re black Ewen

tennis coaches. A special course was held by the Lawn Tennis Association in Coventry last month, helping 18 black coaches to gain their part one certificates. The initiative to encourage black coaches came from the Brixton-based Muhammad Ali sports developments association, with funds being provided by the GLC.

aying pro-

professional at Walton Heath, is the White Horse whisky golf personality for March. He receives £250 and a gallon of whisky, after being the leading money winner on the recent Safari tour. He earned £22,816.46 by taking first place in the Nigerian Open, equal ninth place in the Musulira Open and equal fifth in the Zambian Open.

ake Buena Vista, Florida West Germany ousted Fre

In other second round matches, Jo Durie, of Britain, defeated Jennifer Mundel, of South Africa, 6-3, 6-2. Fifth-seeded Amorela Temesvari of Hungary beat Tine Scheur-Larsen of Denmark, 6-2, 6-4. Kathy Horvath of the United States, seeded No. 6, beat Catherine Tanvier of France, 6-4, 6-2 and seventh-seeded Sylvia Hamika of

**OTHER SPORT**  
**CROQUET:** Roshampton Weekend.  
**FENCING:** RAF Championships (Spring Series) (at RAF Cusfold).  
**TENNIS:** British Junior Hardcourt Championships 16 and Under (at Edgbaston, 9.30am).  
**SNOOKER:** World Professional Championships (at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, 2 and 7pm).

[illegible]



















**BIRTHS**  
**ASSERSON** - On April 26th to Caroline Jane (Sharon) and John A. Asserson a daughter, Emily Jane. Aged 10 weeks. Tel: 01-837 3311.

**BURKE** - On April 24 to Anne and Andrew a son, James. Aged 10 weeks. Tel: 01-837 3311.

**CHAPMAN** - On April 24 to John and Margaret a daughter, Emily Jane. Aged 10 weeks. Tel: 01-837 3311.

**CUNNINGHAM** - On April 24 to John and Margaret a daughter, Emily Jane. Aged 10 weeks. Tel: 01-837 3311.

**DALTON** - On April 24 to John and Margaret a daughter, Emily Jane. Aged 10 weeks. Tel: 01-837 3311.

**DAVIES** - On April 24 to John and Margaret a daughter, Emily Jane. Aged 10 weeks. Tel: 01-837 3311.

**DEWILL** - On April 24 to John and Margaret a daughter, Emily Jane. Aged 10 weeks. Tel: 01-837 3311.

**JONES** - On April 24 to John and Margaret a daughter, Emily Jane. Aged 10 weeks. Tel: 01-837 3311.

**LAURENCE** - On April 24 to John and Margaret a daughter, Emily Jane. Aged 10 weeks. Tel: 01-837 3311.

**MANNING** - On April 24 to John and Margaret a daughter, Emily Jane. Aged 10 weeks. Tel: 01-837 3311.

**MEADE** - On April 24 to John and Margaret a daughter, Emily Jane. Aged 10 weeks. Tel: 01-837 3311.

**MILWILL** - On April 24 to John and Margaret a daughter, Emily Jane. Aged 10 weeks. Tel: 01-837 3311.

**PABAN** - On April 24 to John and Margaret a daughter, Emily Jane. Aged 10 weeks. Tel: 01-837 3311.

**TAYLOR** - On April 24 to John and Margaret a daughter, Emily Jane. Aged 10 weeks. Tel: 01-837 3311.

**WALSH** - On April 24 to John and Margaret a daughter, Emily Jane. Aged 10 weeks. Tel: 01-837 3311.

**WILLIAMS** - On April 24 to John and Margaret a daughter, Emily Jane. Aged 10 weeks. Tel: 01-837 3311.

**YOUNG** - On April 24 to John and Margaret a daughter, Emily Jane. Aged 10 weeks. Tel: 01-837 3311.

**DEATHS**  
**THOMAS** - On April 23rd to Thomas William Thomas, 84, of London. Tel: 01-837 3311.

**WILLIAMS** - On April 23rd to William Williams, 84, of London. Tel: 01-837 3311.

**WILSON** - On April 23rd to John Wilson, 84, of London. Tel: 01-837 3311.

**WOLFE** - On April 23rd to John Wolfe, 84, of London. Tel: 01-837 3311.

**WOODGATE** - On April 23rd to John Woodgate, 84, of London. Tel: 01-837 3311.

**ZWISLOCKY** - On April 23rd to John Zwislocky, 84, of London. Tel: 01-837 3311.

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## Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries: Peter Dear &amp; Peter Davalle

## BBC 1

6.00 **Coastal AM**.  
6.30 **Breakfast Time** with Seana Scott and Mike Smith. News from Debbie Rix at 6.55, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours; sport at 8.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 8.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; television preview at 8.55; a review of the morning papers at 7.18 and 8.18; gardening hints between 7.30 and 7.45; pop news between 7.45 and 8.00; horoscopes at 8.30; culinary hints between 8.30 and 8.45.

9.00 **Battle of the Planets**. Animated science fiction adventures. 9.20 **Look Back With Noakes** on the East coast between Wells-next-the-Sea and Woodbridge. 9.50 **Cartoon**: Mighty Mouse. 10.00 **Why Don't You...?** Ideas for active youngsters. 10.25 **How the Engine** (10.30) **Play School**, presented by Iain Lachlan (10.35) **Cartoon**: Mighty Mouse. 10.55 **Cartoon**: Mighty Mouse.

12.30 **News After Noon** with Richard Whitmore and Sandi Marshall. Bill Giles has the weather prospects: 12.57 **Regional News** (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles: 1.00 **Pebble M&B** at One. Peter Seabrook previews the International Garden Festival, due to open next week in Liverpool; Gene Pitney sings a song in the foyer of the theatre; 1.45 **Heads and Tails** (1).

2.00 **Animal Magic**. Johnny Morris and Terry Nutkins visit the homes of extraordinary pets (1.25 **Film**: *Rhinal* (1984) starring Harry Guardino, Robert Culp and Shirley Eaton. Conservationists/scientists do battle with poachers in darkest Africa. Directed by Ivan Tors; 2.33 **Regional News** (not London).

3.55 **Play School**, presented by Chloe Ashcroft; 4.20 **Six Classic Fairy Tales** begins with *George and the Dragon*; 4.30 **The Record Book** (1); 4.55 **So You Want to Be Top**. How to survive at school (1); 5.10 **Codename: Icarus**. Part one of a five episode thriller (1).

5.40 **Fifty Minutes** begins with news from Ian Leeming; followed by weather at 5.45; regional magazines at 5.55; ending with news headlines at 6.35.

6.40 **Cartoon**: Tom and Jerry. 6.55 **Young Musician of the Year 1984**. Humphrey Burton presents the five finalists in the String section of the competition.

7.30 **Fame**. It is mid-term at the New York School and interviews begin to select next term's pupils.

8.20 **The Time of Your Life**. The star guests are the Jewish girl and the Catholic boy who eloped almost 20 years ago. How has life turned out for them?

9.00 **News with Sue Lawley**. 9.25 **Starsky and Hutch**. A troupe of epileptic dancers are threatened with death and the two policemen look forward to a number of happy hours acting as bodyguards - until the killer strikes (1).

10.15 **Potter**. More comedy as Potter, the vicar and Tolly, along with their wives, are invited to a wine and cheese party. Presumably, Potter decides to offer the other guests his unsolicited assistance (1).

10.45 **News headlines and weather**. 11.00 **Film**: *Two People* (1972) starring Peter Fonda and Lindsay Wagner. The story of a Vietnam war deserter and his affair with a cover girl. Directed by Robert Wise (first showing on British TV) Ends at 12.35.

## TV-am

8.25 **Good Morning Britain** presented by Nick Owen and Anne Diamond. News from Gordon Horswood. 8.50, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines at 8.00; sport at 8.35 and 7.35; consumer guidance at 8.40; fishing news at 8.45; exercises at 8.50 and 8.55; the day's anniversaries at 7.05 and 8.05; a guest in 7.25; guest of the day, Jane Seymour at 7.40; Chris Tarrant's postbag at 7.50; Plying Pickles video at 7.55; Liz Pritchard's Star Turn at 8.10; Jimmy Greaves's television highlights at 8.35.

## TV/LONDON

9.25 **News headlines** followed by *Sesame Street*. 10.25 **The Little Rascals** in *Feed 'Em and Weep*. 10.35 **Play School**, presented by Iain Lachlan (10.35) **Cartoon**: Mighty Mouse. 10.55 **Cartoon**: Mighty Mouse.

12.00 **Alfie Atkins** is again in trouble with his father. 12.10 **Rainbow**. Learning with puppets (Oracle News page 170). 12.30 **On the Market**. Consumer guide to the best buys of the week.

1.00 **News**. 1.20 **Thames news**. 1.30 **About Britain**. Jill Cochrane discovers the secret of the success of West Dean, a crafts college run by the Edward James Trust.

2.00 **Audi**. Judi Spon's guest today is Terry Jones of *Monty Python* fame. 2.30 **Return of the Saint**. Ian Ogilvy is engaged in a tug of war with two pretty girls. 2.50 **Some and Daughters**. 3.00 **Rainbow**. A repeat of the programme shown at 12.10. 4.25 **Aubrey** (1). 4.35 **The Wind in the Willows**. The first of a new series from the brilliant Cosgrove Hill studio. 4.50 **Twelve**. Ideas for those at a loose end. Presented by Mick Robertson. 5.15 **The Young Doctors**.

5.45 **News**. 6.00 **The 6 O'Clock Show** presented by Michael Aspel, takes a look at the lighter side of London life. 7.00 **The Pyramid Game**. The first of a new series presented by Steve Jones. Two contestants, aided by celebrities, have to use their powers of description in order to win the £1,000 jackpot.

7.30 **Handcastle and McCormick**. The eccentric judge is summoned to Washington for a possible appointment to the Supreme Court only to discover that someone wants him barred from the bench for good.

8.30 **That's My Boy**. A new comedy series starring Molly Sugden as the domineering mother (Oracle News page 170).

9.00 **Marlowe - Private Eye**. The first of a new five-part series based on the Raymond Chandler stories begins with the private detective receiving the call from a woman who has been spotted in the Syndicate (Oracle News page 170) (see Choice).

10.00 **News**. 10.30 **The London Programme**. Every month at least one down-and-out dies from drink in police custody. David Weightman investigates. 11.00 **Shoot Pool**. Jim Rosenthal introduces a competition for the John Bull Biller London Pool Championship.

12.00 **South of Watford**. Ben Elton casts an amused eye over Londoners' lifestyles.

12.30 **Dagnair**. The police sergeant Joe Friday cracks another real life case on the Los Angeles Police Department files (1), followed by *Night Thoughts*.

Powers Boothe, Kathryn Leigh Scott in *Marlowe - Private Eye* (ITV, 9.00pm)

## BBC 2

6.05 **Open University: Maths Methods**. Forecasting. 6.30 **Canals and Harbour Modelling**. 6.55 **Measuring with Light**. 7.20 **The Chemistry Detective**. 7.45 **Neurochemistry**. Ends at 8.10.

9.00 **World Snooker**. The seventh day of the Embassy World Professional Snooker Championship begins at 10.30 with Steve Davis playing John Spencer. On the adjoining table Kirk Stevens meets David Taylor. 10.30 **David Taylor** presents *Snooker Break*, the team in which personalities of the game, along with the experts, answer viewers' questions about the sport. The afternoon session begins at 3.00 with Terry Griffiths playing Bill Werbeniuk and Ray Reardon against Silvio Franciosi.

5.05 **Weekend Outlook**. A preview of the general interest programmes to be shown by the Open University during the next two days.

5.10 **Language Development**. An Open University production that illustrates how children are taught to adapt written and spoken language.

5.35 **News summary** with subtitles. 5.40 **Film**: *Dangerous Money* (1946) starring Sidney Toller as Charlie Chan. The ship board murder of special agent Scott Pearson brings the Oriental sleuth into action. Directed by Terry Morse.

6.45 **Eight Days a Week**. The first of a new series of reviews of rock and pop events of the past week. Robin Denslow, Neil Arthur, Joels Holland and Bill Wyman discuss David Bowie's video *Serious Moonlight*; B. B. King's recent concert; and Deborah Spungen's book, *And I Don't Want to Live This* (1).

7.15 **World Snooker**. More of the Davis/Spencer match plus the latest news in the games played earlier involving Terry Griffiths and Ray Reardon.

7.45 **America**. Alistair Cooke's personal history of the United States begins with his arrival in the country in 1932 (1).

8.30 **Gardeners' World**. Geoff Hamilton and Clay Jones in the Cotswold village garden of Ernest and Ethel Holland.

9.00 **World Snooker**. Davis versus Spencer and Stevens against David Taylor.

9.25 **All Our Working Lives**. Chapter three of the 11-part history of Britain at work deals with the Counter Revolution - when manufacturers began to pre-pack their goods (Choice). (Oracle News page 170) (see Choice).

10.25 **World Snooker**. Further coverage from Sheffield.

11.00 **Newswatch**. 11.45 **World Snooker**. Davis Vine with the final live of the night to Sheffield. Ends at 12.50.

## CHANNEL 4

2.15 **Racing from Sandown**. Recorded coverage of the Harry Lewis Maiden Fillies' Stakes (2.00) followed by live coverage of the Audi Sport Handicap Stakes (2.30) and the Audi Grand Prix de Chase (Hunters Chase Final) (3.05); and the Laing and Crickhank Sandown Cup (3.35).

3.55 **World of Animation**. 4.10 **Film**: *Time Gentlemen Please!* (1952) starring Eddie Byrne. A gentle comedy about a lazy innkeeper whose presence in a small English village presents a problem for the inhabitants. Supporting cast includes Hermione Baddeley, Dora Bryan, and Ian Carmichael. Directed by Lewis Gilbert.

5.45 **High Band**. The first of an eight-part series of reviews of television leading groups and single performers. This evening it is the turn of the Thompson Twins. Exceeded live at the Royal Court, Liverpool, during their successful UK tour last year.

6.45 **Hey Good Looking**. The last programme of the series and Janet Street-Porter looks at the use of fantasy and humour in British advertising.

7.00 **Channel Four News**. 7.30 **The Right to Reply** presented by Gus Metcalfe.

8.00 **The World at War - Another Look**. David Jones re-opens the ten year old *The World at War* series and asks how we might re-assess the outcome of World War Two.

8.40 **That the Papers Say**. The Daily Mail's 5.55 Part of Sixty Minutes. Today, 10.30 **Sportscast**. 10.35-11.25 **Week in Week Out**. 11.25-11.55 **News**. 11.55-12.30 **Film**: *The Silver Cord* (1934) starring John Barrymore. 12.30-1.00 **News**. 1.00-1.30 **Part of Sixty Minutes**. 1.30-2.00 **News**. 2.00-2.30 **Part of Sixty Minutes**. 2.30-3.00 **News**. 3.00-3.30 **Part of Sixty Minutes**. 3.30-4.00 **News**. 4.00-4.30 **Part of Sixty Minutes**. 4.30-5.00 **News**. 5.00-5.30 **Part of Sixty Minutes**. 5.30-6.00 **News**. 6.00-6.30 **Part of Sixty Minutes**. 6.30-7.00 **News**. 7.00-7.30 **Part of Sixty Minutes**. 7.30-8.00 **News**. 8.00-8.30 **Part of Sixty Minutes**. 8.30-9.00 **News**. 9.00-9.30 **Part of Sixty Minutes**. 9.30-10.00 **News**. 10.00-10.30 **Part of Sixty Minutes**. 10.30-11.00 **News**. 11.00-11.30 **Part of Sixty Minutes**. 11.30-12.00 **News**. 12.00-12.30 **Part of Sixty Minutes**. 12.30-1.00 **News**. 1.00-1.30 **Part of Sixty Minutes**. 1.30-2.00 **News**. 2.00-2.30 **Part of Sixty Minutes**. 2.30-3.00 **News**. 3.00-3.30 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